

## **PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU: REMIT OF THE CONSTITUTION, EUROPE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE**

### **Introduction**

1. Business Managers will recall that in establishing committees at the start of this Session, Temporary Standing Order Rule 4 was put in place for the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture (CEEAC) Committee. This temporary rule replaces Rule 6.8 which sets out the mandatory remit for the Europe and External Relations Committee which refers to matters that are no longer applicable following the UK departure from the European Union.

2. The period for which this temporary rule was to be in place was set as being until the Parliament takes a decision on a permanent rule change, on the recommendation of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments (SPPA) Committee or until 31 December 2021. Following representations from the CEEAC Committee, the SPPA Committee is seeking the view of the Bureau on an extension to the period for which this temporary rule should apply.

### **Committee consideration**

3. The CEEAC Committee has written to SPPA Committee requesting an extension of the temporary Standing Order until the end of the Session. In doing so, the CEEAC Committee set out that this would “allow the Committee time to consider the impact of the UK leaving the EU on a number of scrutiny procedures outlined in the Standing Orders and the remit of the mandatory Europe and External Relations Committee as set out in Rule 6.8.”

4. The SPPA Committee is seeking the Bureau’s view on the extension of the temporary rule and on the duration of any such extension.

### **Issues for consideration**

5. As Business Managers will know, it is not unusual for temporary changes to mandatory committee remits to apply for the duration of a session with provision made in under Rule 6.1.5A for additional matters to be added to the remit of any mandatory committee.

6. The Bureau may also wish to note that a permanent rule change could be made prior to the end of the Session should the SPPA Committee so recommend to the Parliament.

### **Decision**

**7. Business Managers are invited to consider its response to the SPPA Committee and what its view is on the duration of any extension to the Temporary Standing Order Rule 4.**

**Parliamentary Business Team  
December 2021**

**LETTER FROM SPPA COMMITTEE TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER – 25  
NOVEMBER 2021**

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee today considered a request from the Convener of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee (CEEAC Committee) to extend the duration of Temporary Rule 4 which changed the mandatory committee remit and name for the committee mentioned in Rule 6.8 (Europe and External Relations). The Parliament originally agreed that Temporary Rule 4 should be in place until 31 December 2021.

The Convener of the CEEAC Committee explained that reasons for requesting the extension of the duration of the Rule:

“This will allow the Committee time to consider the impact of the UK leaving the EU on a number of scrutiny procedures outlined in the Standing Orders and the remit of the mandatory Europe and External Relations Committee as set out in Rule 6.8.”

The Committee agreed to write to the Parliamentary Bureau to seek its views on the CEEAC Committee’s request to extend the Temporary Rule to the end of the session. In particular, the Committee would welcome the Bureau’s view on whether the extension should be for the duration of the session or whether a shorter time-frame should be recommended.

I would very much welcome a response from you that would allow the Committee to consider this further at its meeting on 9 December.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

**Martin Whitfield MSP**  
**Convener**  
**Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee**