



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**David Stewart MSP**  
Highlands and Islands

Bill Kidd MSP  
Convenor  
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

Our Ref: DS/KF/PV

05 February 2019

Dear Bill,

### **Proxy Voting**

You will be well aware that Westminster has agreed a 12-month pilot programme for MPs on parental leave to have access to proxy voting.

This followed recommendation 12 of "The Good Parliament" by the Commons Reference Group on Representation and Inclusion, responsible for addressing gender insensitivities.

I believe this would be a very useful development for our own Parliament and my reason for writing to you is to ask whether your Committee would consider addressing this as a future agenda item, perhaps by way of a very short enquiry.

I am happy to provide further evidence if the Committee would find that useful. I am also copying this to the Committee clerks.

I look forward to your response.

With best wishes,

**David Stewart MSP**  
**Member of the Scottish Parliament for Highlands and Islands (Scottish Labour)**

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