The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in the Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh, to consider the following agenda items:

1. **Item in Private:** The Committee will consider whether to take items 3 and 4 in private.

2. **Subordinate Legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

   The Domestic Water and Sewerage Charges (Reduction) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/114)

3. **Budget Process 2002-03:** The Committee will consider its approach to examination of the Scottish Executive expenditure proposals for 2002-03.

4. **Inquiry into the Management and Maintenance of Trunk Roads:** The Committee will consider possible names for an adviser on this inquiry.
The following public papers are relevant for this meeting:

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<th>Covering note on the The Domestic Water and Sewerage Charges (Reduction) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/114) Agenda item 2</th>
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<td>The Domestic Water and Sewerage Charges (Reduction) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/114) Agenda item 2</td>
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TRANSPORT AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Scottish Statutory Instrument

The Domestic Water and Sewerage Charges (Reduction) (Scotland)
Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/114)

1. The Domestic Water and Sewerage Charges (Reduction) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (SSI 2001/114) were laid on 20 March 2001. The Transport and the Environment Committee has been designated as the lead committee for the consideration of this instrument. An Executive note accompanies the Order.

2. The order was laid under a "negative procedure" which means that the Parliament has power to annul the order by resolution within 40 days, excluding recess. The time limit for Parliamentary action expires on 10 May 2001.

3. Any MSP may lodge a motion to propose to the lead committee that the order be annulled. The Committee is required to report on the instrument by 7 May 2001. This means that the Committee meeting of 2 May is the last scheduled opportunity for a motion for annulment to be considered by the Committee. Should a motion for annulment be lodged, under Rule 10.4, the Transport and the Environment Committee must debate the issue and then report to the Parliament with its decision.

4. The Regulations provide for reductions in water and sewerage charges in Scotland from 1 April 2001 until 31 March 2002. They will bring into effect the relief scheme proposed in the consultation paper “Affordability of Water and Sewerage Charges – A consultation paper” which was published on 15 November 2000. The Executive published a report on the consultation exercise on 23 February. (The report is available on the Executive website.) The Committee took evidence in relation to the affordability of water and sewerage charges from a number of witnesses during its water inquiry.

5. The Subordinate Legislation Committee considered this instrument at its meeting on 27 March 2001. The Committee determined that the attention of the Parliament need not be drawn to the instrument.

Shelagh McKinlay
Clerk to the Transport and the Environment Committee
20 April 2001