The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 5 to consider the following agenda items:

1. **Decisions on taking business in private**: The Committee will consider whether to take agenda item 4 in private.

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


3. **Inquiry into Ferry Services in Scotland**: The Committee will consider proposals for external meetings and Reporter visits in relation to its inquiry.


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The papers for this meeting are as follows:

**Agenda Item 2**

Cover note from the Clerk  
*The Transport and Works (Scotland) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/517)*  
TIC/S3/07/14/1

**Agenda Item 3**

Paper from the Clerk  
TIC/S3/07/14/2

**Agenda Item 4**

Draft report  
TIC/S3/07/14/3 (P)
TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

14th Meeting, 2007 (Session 3)

Tuesday 18 December 2007

Subordinate Legislation Cover Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Instrument</th>
<th>The Transport and Works (Scotland) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Order 2007 (SSI 2007/517)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing Order</td>
<td>10.4 (Negative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laid Date</td>
<td>21 November 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circulated to Members</td>
<td>23 November 2007</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Date</td>
<td>18 December 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting Deadline</td>
<td>9 January 2008</td>
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Purpose

1. The purpose of this instrument is to make consequential modifications and transitional provision in connection with the coming into force of provisions of the Transport and Works (Scotland) Act 2007.

Background

2. Part 1 of the Act provides for an order-making process that enables the Scottish Ministers to authorise the construction or operation, or matters connected with the construction and operation of a guided transport system, trolley vehicle system or an inland waterway.

3. The policy is to ensure that the provisions of the Act operate smoothly on commencement and to that end this order makes necessary modifications in respect of other legislation consequent on the provisions within this Act.

4. The order also makes transitional provision to facilitate the change from existing statutory regimes to those that will apply following the coming into force of the Act. That change is achieved by making special provision for the application of legislation to circumstances which exist at a time when the Act comes into force. The operation of the transitional provision is expected to be temporary, in that it becomes spent when all the past circumstances with which it is designed to deal with have been dealt with.

2. Further information on the policy objectives, consultation and financial effects can be found in the Executive note which is attached.
Subordinate Legislation Committee Report

3. The Subordinate Legislation Committee did not have any comments to make in relation to this instrument.

Recommendation

4. The Committee is invited to consider any issues which it wishes to raise in reporting to the Parliament on this instrument.

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Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee

Inquiry into Ferry Services in Scotland

Proposals for external Committee meetings and Reporter visits

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 27 November 2007, the Committee agreed to consider proposals for external meetings in areas directly affected by ferries to gather evidence in relation to its inquiry into ferry services in Scotland. This paper makes suggestions for two external meetings and for a series of Reporter visits.

External meetings

Northern Isles

2. It is suggested that the Committee should consider meeting in the Northern Isles. Shetland has been previously proposed by members as a possible venue, and Liam McArthur MSP has recently written to the Convener suggesting that the Committee should meet in Orkney to take evidence.

3. There are similarities between these two locations in that they both have well-used services to and from the mainland (operated by Northlink Ferries Ltd.), as well as a network of inter-island ferry services operated by companies owned by the respective local authorities. Orkney has a higher island-mainland service usage (185,000 in 2006, as opposed to 103,000 for Shetland), whilst Shetland’s inter-island network has significantly higher passenger numbers (761,000 in 2006 against 318,000 in Orkney). It is worth noting, however, that the SPICe Briefing on Ferry Services in Scotland refers to the fact that passenger numbers fluctuate annually in Orkney and that detailed statistics are only now being collected on many of the smaller routes in Shetland.

4. The SPICe briefing also provides details of the revenue support provided by the respective local authorities to support the inter-island networks. Orkney Islands Council provided £5.799m in support to Orkney Ferries during financial year 2004/05, the last year for which figures are available. Shetland Islands Council provided a subsidy of £11.23m during 2006/07 for the continued operation of its inter-island ferry services.

5. There would be value in holding an external meeting in either Orkney or Shetland. However, taking into account its higher overall passenger numbers, coupled with significantly higher revenue support spend on ferries and its more remote geographical location, it is recommended that the Committee should meet in Shetland.
6. If members agree this recommendation, it is further suggested that the possibility of taking evidence at the meeting in Shetland via video link from Orkney be examined. Alternatively, witnesses from Orkney could be invited to attend the Shetland meeting.

Western Isles

7. It is suggested that the Committee should also consider meeting at a location in the Western Isles. This would provide geographical balance and would provide an opportunity to examine the issues affecting the wide and varied network of ferry services in that part of Scotland.

8. In view of the diversity of ferry services in the Western Isles, it is proposed that there would be value in meeting at a location which serves as a hub for a range of ferry routes. This would provide scope to hear from those who use or have an interest in several different routes, as opposed to only those with a single route or island-specific interest if an island location was chosen.

9. Oban has been identified as a ferry hub which would be ideal in this regard. A significant number of passengers pass through Oban (729,000 in 2006) and it is the departure/arrival point on seven separate routes. In addition, the logistical difficulties in staging a meeting on the mainland are likely to be less complex than on a remote island.

10. It is acknowledged that other locations in the Western Isles such as Lewis or Mallaig would also be strong candidates, but it is recommended that Oban should be selected on this occasion. However, both Lewis, which is served by a key lifeline route, and Mallaig as another important ferry service hub, could be considered as candidates for Reporter visits.

11. It is therefore proposed that the Committee should meet in Oban in March 2008 and in Shetland towards the end of April 2008. Specific dates will be identified once an assessment is made of venue availability and travel and logistical issues.

Reporter visits

12. Committee members have previously agreed that there would be value in undertaking a series of Reporter visits during the period of the call for evidence. It is suggested that if the above recommendations for external meetings are agreed, arrangements should also be made for Reporters to visit the following locations early in 2008:

- Lewis
- Mallaig
- Dunoon
- Arran
13. It is anticipated that these visits would be attended by one or two members, supported where possible by a clerk. Members would be invited to indicate any preferences they may have for participating in the visits. Opportunities would be identified to meet at each location with members of the public, business and tourism interests, ferry operators and workers and other interested parties as appropriate. The Reporters would then provide feedback to the Committee on the issues raised.

14. The possibility of using videoconferencing facilities could be investigated as an alternative to Reporter visits in order to minimise the demands on members' time.

15. The Committee has previously agreed to approach the Conveners Group to seek approval for any expenditure associated with Reporter visits.

**Action**
16. Members are invited to consider whether they wish to agree to:
   - hold external meetings in Oban in March 2008 and in Shetland in April 2008
   - a series of Reporter visits to Lewis, Mallaig, Dunoon and Arran in early 2008
   - an approach being made to the Conveners Group and the Parliamentary Bureau to obtain the necessary approvals to hold the proposed external meetings.

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