

Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill

Groupings of Amendments for Stage 2

This document provides procedural information which will assist in preparing for and following proceedings on the above Bill. The information provided is as follows:

- the list of groupings (that is, the order in which amendments will be debated). Any procedural points relevant to each group are noted;
- a list of any amendments already debated;
- the text of amendments to be debated on the first day of Stage 2 consideration, set out in the order in which they will be debated. **THIS LIST DOES NOT REPLACE THE MARSHALLED LIST, WHICH SETS OUT THE AMENDMENTS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE DISPOSED OF.**

Groupings of amendments

Local electoral wards: number of councillors

22, 23

Local government elections: evaluation of pilot schemes

4, 5

Manner of voting by voters who are blind or partially-sighted

1, 2, 3

Attendance of observers at Scottish Parliament elections

6, 7, 8, 9

Financing of Electoral Commission

10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19

Timings of reviews of Boundary Commission

20, 21

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Local electoral wards: number of councillors

Mark Ruskell

- 22 In section 4, page 2, line 28, leave out <two,>

Graeme Dey

- 23 In section 4, page 2, line 28, at end insert—
- <(b) the words “(order giving effect to proposals made by Boundary Commission)” are repealed,
 - (c) after “(“the 1973 Act”)” insert “(regulations giving effect to proposals made by Boundaries Scotland after, in particular, complying with the duty in section 28(2), and schedule 6, of the 1973 Act)”.>

Local government elections: evaluation of pilot schemes

Graeme Dey

- 4 In section 6, page 3, line 20, leave out <as follows> and insert <in accordance with subsections (2) and (3)>

Graeme Dey

- 5 In section 6, page 3, line 33, at end insert—
- <() In section 5 of the Scottish Local Government (Elections) Act 2002 (pilot schemes for local elections)—
 - (a) in subsection (8), for “local authority” substitute “Electoral Commission”,
 - (b) in subsection (10), for “local authority” substitute “Electoral Commission”,
 - (c) after subsection (11) insert—

“(11A) In preparing the report, the Electoral Commission may consult such persons as they think appropriate.”,
 - (d) for subsection (12) substitute—

“(12) The Electoral Commission must—

 - (a) send a copy of the report to—
 - (i) the Scottish Ministers, and
 - (ii) the local authority which proposed the scheme, and
 - (b) publish the report in such manner as they think fit,

by the end of the period of three months beginning with the date of the declaration of the result of the elections to which the report relates.”.>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Manner of voting by voters who are blind or partially-sighted

Jeremy Balfour

1 After section 6, insert—

<Pilot scheme for voters who are blind or partially-sighted

Pilot scheme for voters who are blind or partially-sighted

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must undertake at least one but no more than four pilot schemes for the purpose of developing and improving methods to ensure voters who are blind or partially-sighted can vote independently without any need for assistance and in secret, screened from observation on the same terms as any typical voter.
- (2) The pilot schemes may apply to either general elections to the Scottish Parliament or Scottish local government elections.
- (3) The pilot schemes must be completed by 31 December 2024.
- (4) In preparing, delivering or reviewing the pilot schemes, the Scottish Ministers may consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provisions about—
 - (a) the form and content of a pilot scheme,
 - (b) how they will discharge their functions under this section,
 - (c) the procedures for preparing, delivering, reviewing or adopting a pilot scheme.
- (6) Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative procedure.>

Jeremy Balfour

2 After section 11, insert—

<Manner of voting for voters who are blind or partially-sighted

After schedule 1 rule 29(7) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, insert—

- “(8) The Electoral Commission must issue guidance to returning officers on the duty imposed by paragraph (3A) above, in particular permitting voters who are blind or partially-sighted to vote with the use of tools, personal or otherwise that magnify or aid in the reading of documents audibly or visually.”.>

Jeremy Balfour

3 In section 35, page 23, line 19, after <sections> insert *<(Pilot scheme for voters who are blind or partially-sighted),>*

Attendance of observers at Scottish Parliament elections

Graeme Dey

6 In section 10, page 6, line 26, leave out <as follows> and insert <in accordance with subsections (1A) to (2)>

Graeme Dey

7 In section 10, page 6, line 26, at end insert—

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- <(1A) In section 6G (code of practice on attendance of observers at local government elections in Scotland)—
- (a) in subsection (1), after “at” insert “Scottish Parliamentary general elections, elections under section 9 of the Scotland Act 1998 (constituency vacancies) and”,
 - (b) the title of the section becomes “Code of practice on attendance of observers at Scottish Parliamentary elections and local government elections in Scotland”.
- (1B) In section 6C(3) (accredited observers: individuals), after “to” insert “a Scottish Parliamentary general election, an election under section 9 of the Scotland Act 1998 (constituency vacancies) or”.
- (1C) In section 6D(4) (accredited observers: organisations), after “to” insert “a Scottish Parliamentary general election, an election under section 9 of the Scotland Act 1998 (constituency vacancies) or”.>

Graeme Dey

8 In section 10, page 6, line 29, at end insert—

- <() In section 24 of the Referendums (Scotland) Act 2020 (code of practice on attendance of observers)—
- (a) after “at”, in the first place where it occurs, insert “Scottish Parliamentary elections and”,
 - (b) after “to”, in the second place where it occurs, insert “Scottish Parliamentary general elections, elections under section 9 of the Scotland Act 1998 (constituency vacancies) and”.>

Graeme Dey

9 In section 10, page 6, line 30, leave out subsection (3)

Financing of Electoral Commission

Graeme Dey

10 In section 14, page 9, line 27, after <expenditure> insert <properly>

Graeme Dey

11 In section 14, page 9, line 30, at end insert—

- <(1A) Sub-paragraph (1) does not require the SPCB to reimburse any expenditure which exceeds or is otherwise not covered by an estimate or, as the case may be, a revised estimate approved under this paragraph.
- (1B) However, the SPCB may reimburse that expenditure.>

Graeme Dey

12 In section 14, page 9, line 31, leave out <, and submit to the SPCB,>

Graeme Dey

13 In section 14, page 9, line 32, after <expenditure> insert <for the year>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Graeme Dey

- 14 In section 14, page 9, line 33, at end insert <and, by such date as the SPCB determines, send the estimate to the SPCB for approval.>

Graeme Dey

- 15 In section 14, page 9, line 35, leave out <submit it to the SPCB> and insert <send it to the SPCB for approval>

Graeme Dey

- 16 In section 14, page 9, line 35, at end insert—
- <(3A) In preparing an estimate or a revised estimate, the Commission must ensure that the estimated level of income and expenditure is consistent with the economical, efficient and effective exercise by the Commission of their devolved Scottish functions.
 - (3B) An estimate or a revised estimate must contain a statement that the Commission have complied with the duty under sub-paragraph (3A).>

Graeme Dey

- 17 In section 14, page 9, line 36, leave out from beginning to end of line 21 on page 10

Graeme Dey

- 18 Leave out section 17

Graeme Dey

- 19 Leave out section 18

Timings of reviews of Boundary Commission

Graeme Dey

- 20 In section 29, page 18, line 21, leave out <12> and insert <15>

Graeme Dey

- 21 In section 32, page 22, line 40, leave out <2024> and insert <2025>

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