

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

DESIGNATION OF BILLS AT STAGE 1

HOUSING (CLADDING REMEDIATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL

Introduction

1. The Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 1 November 2023 by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Shirley-Anne Sommerville MSP.

Discussion

2. The Bill requires the Scottish Ministers to maintain a cladding assurance register. This register includes details of buildings which have undergone a single-building assessment and have had any identified cladding remediation work completed.
3. The Bill empowers Scottish Ministers to arrange for single-building assessments to be carried out and associated remediation works undertaken. This includes evacuation of buildings if necessary. It also confers powers of entry and provides for notice periods, appeals and the provision of information to residents. The Bill also makes additional provision in relation to the commission of offences under the new powers provided.
4. The Bill empowers Scottish Ministers to create a responsible developers scheme. Ministers may introduce regulations to prohibit developers from carrying out development if they are eligible to be members of the scheme, but choose not to participate.
5. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committees:

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

The remit of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee includes matters relating to housing and tenants' rights within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice. The Bill was introduced by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and addresses remediation of residential building. The remit of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee is therefore engaged.

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

The remit of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee includes to consider and report on matters relating human rights and civil justice. The Bill creates new civil offences. As such the remit of the

Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee is engaged.

6. It is understood that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee has the main interest in this Bill. We are not aware of any desire on the part of any other committee to be designated as a secondary committee. However, the lack of a formal designation does not prevent any committee from considering the Bill if it so wishes.

Recommendation

7. The Bureau is invited to consider recommending to the Parliament by motion that it agrees, under Rule 9.6.1, to designate the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee as lead committee for consideration of the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1.

DRAFT MOTION

Designation of Lead Committee: That the Parliament agrees that the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Housing (Cladding Remediation) (Scotland) Bill at stage 1.

SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

Introduction

8. The Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 31 October 2023 by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP.

Discussion

9. This Bill provides for the amendment of the Social Security (Scotland) Act 2018 in a variety of ways, including:
 - allowing the Scottish Government to provide care experience assistance and changing the way rules are made for the Scottish Child Payment
 - changing the processes for making decisions about social security assistance in Scotland
 - changing the processes where people must pay back assistance received by mistake, and providing that in certain situations a person's representative may need to pay back assistance received by the person by mistake
 - allowing information to be gathered for auditing purposes
 - creating a process for some, or all, of a compensation payment to be paid to the Scottish Government to cover the amount of assistance a person has received for the same accident, injury or illness

- changing the legal form of the Scottish Commission on Social Security and giving it more duties

10. The Bill appears to engage the remits of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee and the Education, Children and Young People Committee.

Social Justice and Social Security Committee	The remit of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee includes consideration of matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, which includes Social Security Scotland and the development and delivery of Scottish Government benefits. The Bill makes provision for matters clearly falling within the responsibility of Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice and accordingly the Social Justice and Social Security Committee's remit is engaged.
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Education, Children and Young People Committee	The remit of the Education, Children and Young People Committee includes consideration of matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, which includes issues such as childcare and closing the attainment gap. The Cabinet Secretary is also supported by the Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise, whose remit includes looked after children. The Bill provides two new forms of assistance – one targeting children and one targeting care experienced young people, and accordingly the remit of the Education, Children and Young People Committee is engaged.
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11. It would appear that the Social Justice and Social Security Committee has the primary interest in the Bill. Designation of one committee as lead committee does not preclude any other committee whose remit is engaged from considering the Bill if it wishes to do so.

Recommendation

12. The Bureau is invited to consider recommending to the Parliament by motion that it agrees, under Rule 9.6.1, to designate the Social Justice and Social Security Committee as lead committee for consideration of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1.

DRAFT MOTION

Designation of Lead Committee – That the Parliament agrees that the Social Justice and Social Security Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1.

Parliamentary Business Team
November 2023