

Stages of a Bill at the Scottish Parliament

This is the process for a Bill that has been introduced by the Scottish Government.

The Ministers and civil servants usually have had lots of consultations and discussions to get to the stage of being ready to bring the Bill to the Parliament. The MSPs know about that. But this process is to let the MSPs and the people they represent have their say.

Stage 1

The Bill is introduced in the Parliament.

The Cabinet Secretary (Nicola Sturgeon) did this for the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Bill on 29th February.

It then goes to the Committee for this topic. This is a group of MSPs and includes people from different political parties and from different parts of Scotland. They all have an interest in the matters covered by this committee.

For this Bill it is the Health and Sport Committee.

You can get more information about the Committee at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/29829.aspx>

Email: healthandsport.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

0131 348 5410

The committee leads the Stage 1 inquiry and report. People get the chance to send in comments on each part of the Bill.

The committee considers what everyone has said and draws on their own experience and views on health and social care matters.

The committee's report goes to the Parliament and there is a Stage 1 debate.

This is asking the Parliament if they agree with the general principles in the Bill.

If the Parliament agrees, it goes to Stage 2. If they do not agree, it stops here.

For this Bill:

- The invitation for written views closes on 24th April.
- There will be oral presentations in May.
- The Committee hopes to complete its report by the end of June.

You can see the call for written views at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/48017.aspx>

Stage 2

The Committee now looks at the Bill in detail.

Amendments can get made at this stage.

Stage 3

The Bill goes back to the Parliament.

This is another stage of detailed consideration. More amendments can get made at this point.

There is then a Debate in the Parliament on the Bill.

There is a motion to pass the Bill. If the Parliament agrees, it goes on to the final stage.

After Stage 3

This is the final stage, which is more about finishing off the legal details of a new Act of Parliament.

There is a wait of 4 weeks, to check that there are now problems that anyone has missed. It also completes the link with the Westminster Parliament.

Once this has been cleared, the Bill gets Royal Assent. This makes it an Act.

After the Act is passed

The Act allows the Scottish Government to set the date at which the terms come into effect.

www.otbds.org

Usually this is later, to give people time to get the practical arrangements ready.

For this Bill, the Scottish Government has said in the Background papers that it expects that the Act will be imputed in Autumn 2013 – Spring 2014.