



**What's Happening at Holyrood?  
Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin  
Tuesday 25 March 2008**

**BILLS IN PROGRESS**

There are currently four Bills progressing through the Scottish Parliament and one Bill awaiting Royal Assent:

**[Budget \(Scotland\) \(No.5\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)**

This Bill makes provision, for financial year 2008/09, for the use of resources by the Scottish Administration and certain bodies whose expenditure is payable out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund.

*Current Status*

The Budget (Scotland) Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 17 January 2008 by John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth. Prior to the introduction of the Bill, the Scottish Government published the [Scottish Budget Spending Review](#) in November 2007 and the Finance Committee published its [Report on the 2008-9 Budget Process](#) on 16 January 2008.

The Bill was passed at Stage 1 on 23 January 2008 with 64 members voting in favour of the supporting motion, 62 against and 2 members abstaining. A transcript of the Stage 1 debate is available in the [Official Report](#). The Bill was passed at Stage 2 on 29 January 2008. The Scottish Government lodged 6 amendments to the Bill at Stage 3. These amendments were considered, and agreed to, by the Parliament during Stage 3 proceedings on 6 February 2008. A further amendment, in the name of Labour's finance spokesman Iain Gray, was also agreed to. The Bill, as amended, was passed with 64 members voting in its favour, 1 against, and 60 abstentions. A transcript of the Stage 3 debate is available in the [Official Report](#). **The Bill received Royal Assent on 12 March 2008. A copy of the Budget (Scotland) Act 2008 is available [here](#).**

**[Creative Scotland Bill \(Ex\)](#)**

This Bill seeks to establish a body known as Creative Scotland and to confer on it functions in relation to the arts and culture and to the application of creative skills.

*Current Status*

The Creative Scotland Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 12 March 2008 by Alex Salmond MSP. The Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee has been designated Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. At its last meeting on 19 March 2008, the Committee considered its approach to the Bill at Stage 1. **The Committee has issued a call for [written evidence](#) seeking views on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1 from interested groups and individuals. The deadline for receipt of written evidence is 18 April 2008.**

**[Glasgow Commonwealth Games Bill \(Ex\)](#)**

This Bill seeks to make provision in relation to the Commonwealth Games that are to be held principally in Glasgow in 2014. The Bill aims to meet the Scottish Government's obligations under the Host City Contract and deliver the commitments given in the Candidate City file. The Bill seeks to give the Scottish Ministers and councils the powers needed to achieve these aims.



#### *Current Status*

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 9 November 2007. The Local Government and Communities Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 15 February 2008. The Bill was passed at Stage 1 on 27 February 2008. A transcript of the Stage 1 debate can be read in the [Official Report](#). **The Committee completed scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 2 at its last meeting on 19 March 2008. Stage 3 amendments may now be lodged with the clerks to the Committee.**

#### **Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill (Ex)**

This Bill seeks to make provision for the removal of the graduate endowment fee for students who successfully completed their course on 1 April 2007 or thereafter. This will be done by repealing the relevant sections of the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001 (and revoking the principal regulations), together with the express extinguishing of liabilities by reference to the due date of 1 April 2008.

#### *Current status*

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 22 October 2007. The Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill.

The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 13 December 2007 and, by majority, recommended that the general principles not be approved. The Stage 1 Debate on the Bill took place on 20 December 2007. Parliament agreed to the general principles of the Bill with 65 members voting in favour of the supporting motion, and 60 against. The full transcript of the Stage 1 debate can be read in the [Official Report](#). The Committee completed examination of the Bill at Stage 2 at its meeting on 23 January 2008. The Bill was passed at Stage 3 on 28 February 2008. A full transcript of the Stage 3 debate can be read in the [Official Report](#). The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.

#### **Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Bill (Ex)**

This Bill aims to make substantive provision in relation to four main policy areas: judicial independence; the judiciary including the provision of a statutory basis for the Judicial Appointments Board; the courts; and new arrangements for the governance of the Scottish Court Service. The overarching objective of the Bill is to modernise and improve the court system by modernising and strengthening the role of Scotland's judiciary.

#### *Current Status*

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 30 January 2008 by Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice. The Justice Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. At its last meeting on 18 March 2008, the Committee took oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1. **At its next meeting this week on 25 March 2008, the Committee will take further oral evidence. For a full list of witnesses please see the relevant agenda under Committee Business.**

#### **Public Health etc. (Scotland) Bill (Ex)**

This Bill seeks to re-state and amend the law on public health; to make provision about mortuaries and the disposal of bodies; to enable the Scottish Ministers to implement their obligations under the International Health Regulations; to enable provisions to be made in relation to provision of information to users on the effect on health of sunbeds; to amend the law on statutory nuisances; and for connected purposes.



*Current Status*

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 25 October 2007. The Health and Sport Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill. **The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 18 March 2008 and recommended that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to. The Stage 1 Debate will take place on 17 April 2008.**