



**What's Happening at Holyrood?
Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin
Monday 5 November 2007**

BILLS IN PROGRESS

There are currently three Bills progressing through the Scottish Parliament:

[Abolition of Tolls \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks to make provisions for the removal of the remaining tolls from the Forth and Tay Road Bridges as soon as is practicable. This will be done by removing the powers of the Forth Estuary Transport Authority to charge tolls on the Forth Road Bridge and by removing the penalties for non-payment of these tolls. The powers of the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board to charge tolls on the Tay Road Bridge will be removed and relevant provisions relating to these powers will be repealed.

Current status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 3 September 2007. The Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee was assigned as the Lead Committee for examination of the Bill.

The Committee met on 30 October 2007 and agreed its Stage 1 Report on the Bill, subject to minor amendments being made by correspondence. The Stage 1 Debate on the general principles of the Bill will take place on 15 November 2007.

[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 has issued a call for written evidence on the general principles of the Bill. The deadline for receipt of written evidence is 23 November 2007. **The Finance Committee will meet on 6 November to take further evidence on the Financial Memorandum of the Bill. The Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee will meet on the 7 November to take oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1. For a full list of witnesses 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 and will meet on 7 November to consider their approach to the Bill at Stage 1. The deadline for receipt of written evidence on the general principles of the Bill is 18 January 2008. The Finance Committee will meet on 6 November and take oral evidence on the Financial Memorandum of the Bill.