

What's Happening at Holyrood? Anderson Strathern Parliamentary Bulletin Monday 18 December 2006

This weekly Parliamentary Bulletin, detailing business at the Scottish Parliament, is composed of 3 sections: [Bills in progress](#), [Chamber Business](#) and [Committee Business](#)

The text highlighted in red signifies the developments that have taken place since the last Parliamentary Bulletin on 11 December 2006. The full text of each Bill (as amended where applicable) can be read by clicking on the titles of each Bill below.

BILLS IN PROGRESS

Key: (Ex) = Executive Bill; (M) = Member's Bill; (C) = Committee Bill; (P) = Private Bill.

[Adoption and Children \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks to restate and amend the law relating to adoption. It also seeks to make other provision in relation to the care and possession of children and allowances for the fostering of children.

Current status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 27 March 2006 by Peter Peacock MSP, Minister for Education and Young People. The Education Committee, as lead Committee, published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 29 June 2006 and supported the general principles of the Bill. The Parliament, sitting in plenary session, passed the Bill at Stage 1 on 13 September 2006. The Committee completed its consideration of the Bill at Stage 2 on 8 November 2006. The Parliament, sitting in plenary session, debated the Bill at Stage 3 on 7 December 2006 and passed the Bill by 101 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions. A transcript of the debate can be read in [Official Report](#). The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.

[Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

This Bill seeks: to make provision for the purposes of protecting adults from abuse; to require the establishment of committees with functions relating to the safeguarding of adults who are at risk of abuse; to amend the law relating to incapable adults; to remove an individual's liability for expenses incurred by councils in performing certain functions in relation to the individual's spouse or child; to allow the Scottish Ministers to delegate their functions relating to councils' duty to pay sums for the purposes of securing community care services; to make provision entitling a council to recover expenses incurred in providing social services to persons who are not ordinarily resident in the council's area; to allow the Public Guardian to intervene in court proceedings; and to adjust the circumstances in which extensions of orders authorising compulsory treatment of mentally disordered persons must be reviewed.

Current status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 30 March 2006 by Andy Kerr MSP, Minister for Health and Community Care. The Health Committee has now completed taking oral evidence on the Bill at Stage 1. The Committee's [Stage 1 Report](#) on the Bill was published on 10 November 2006. In its report, the Committee sets out its concerns over part 1 of the Bill and in particular the new powers contained in sections 3-38, which, in certain circumstances, permit adults at risk to be removed from their homes against their will. The Committee requested assurances from the Deputy Minister for

Health on several matters set out in the report. The Bill was, however, passed at Stage 1 by the Parliament on 23 November 2006. A transcript of the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). **The Health Committee began consideration of the Bill at Stage 2 at its last meeting on 12 December 2006 and will continue to examine the Bill at its meeting this week on 19 December 2006.**

[Airdrie-Bathgate Railway and Linked Improvements Bill \(P\)](#)

A Bill to authorise the construction of new railways between Drumgelloch and Bathgate, including new stations at Caldercruix and Armadale, the use of land for relocated stations at Drumgelloch and Bathgate and related improvements to the existing railways between Airdrie and Drumgelloch and Bathgate and Edinburgh; to regularise the operation of certain enactments relating to the existing railway affected by the works so authorised; and for connected purposes.

Current status:

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 30 May 2006 by Network Rail Infrastructure Limited. The Airdrie-Bathgate Railway and Linked Improvements Bill Committee was established on 15 June 2006 to consider the Bill. Following oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill, the Committee published its [Preliminary Stage Report](#) on the Bill on 14 November 2006. The Bill was passed at Preliminary Stage by the Parliament on 23 November 2006. A transcript of the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). No date has been set for further consideration of the Bill.

[Aquaculture and Fisheries \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to make provision in relation to fish farms and shellfish farms; in relation to the parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*; in relation to salmon and freshwater fisheries and sea fisheries; in relation to payments connected with aquaculture and fisheries; and for connected purposes.

Current Status:

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 29 June 2006 by Ross Finnie, Minister for Environment and Rural Development. **The Environment and Rural Development Committee, as lead Committee, published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 5 December 2006 and recommended that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to. The Stage 1 Debate will take place on 20 December 2006.**

[Bankruptcy and Diligence etc. \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to amend the law of sequestration and personal insolvency, to amend the law about floating charges, to establish a Scottish Civil Enforcement Commission, to replace officers of court with messengers of court and to amend the law of diligence.

Current status:

The Enterprise and Culture Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on the Bill on 17 May 2006. The Bill was passed by the Parliament at Stage 1 on 24 May 2006. The Enterprise and Culture Committee completed examination of the Bill at Stage 2 on 7 November 2006. The Bill was passed at Stage 3 on 30 November 2006. A full transcript of the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.

[Cairngorms National Park Boundary Bill \(M\)](#)

A Bill to extend the boundaries of the Cairngorms National Park by including parts of the Eastern and Highland Perthshire areas.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 21 September 2006 by John Swinney MSP. The Environment and Rural Development Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill and will start taking oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill on 31 January 2007

[Christmas Day and New Year's Day Trading \(Scotland\) Bill \(M\)](#)

A Bill to prohibit the opening of large shops on Christmas Day and New Year's Day for the purposes of retail trading.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 20 March 2006 by Karen Whitefield MSP. The Justice 2 Committee has been designated lead Committee on this Bill. The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on the Bill on 14 November 2006 and recommended, by majority, that the general principles be agreed to. The Bill was passed by the Parliament at Stage 1 on 22 November 2006. A transcript of the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). Stage 2 amendments may now be lodged with the clerks to the Justice 2 Committee.

[Civil Appeals \(Scotland\) Bill \(M\)](#)

A Bill to provide for a final right of civil appeal to a Civil Appeals Committee and to abolish the right of civil appeal to the House of Lords; and for connected purposes.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 29 September 2006 by Adam Ingram MSP. The Justice 2 Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill. The Committee considered its approach to the Bill at its last meeting on 28 November 2006. The Committee agreed, by majority, to make a recommendation by way of a motion to the Parliament under Rule 9.14.18(b) that the general principles of the Bill should not be agreed to. **The Parliament will sit in plenary session on 20 December 2006 to debate the Committee's motion. If the Parliament agrees to the Committee's motion the Bill will fall.**

[Commissioner for Older People \(Scotland\) Bill \(M\)](#)

A Bill to establish a Commissioner for Older People with duties to protect and further their rights and interests.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 20 September 2006 by Alex Neill MSP. The Communities Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill. The Finance Committee has been taking oral evidence on the Bill's financial memorandum and continued to do so at its last meeting on 5 December 2006. No date has been set for further consideration of the Bill.

[Criminal Proceedings etc. \(Reform\) \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to make provision: as to bail in criminal proceedings; in relation to the reform of certain aspects of summary criminal procedure; in relation to solemn criminal procedure; to maximum penalties in the summary criminal courts; for the purpose of compensation orders in favour of victims of offences; in relation to alternatives to prosecution; as to enforcement of financial penalties for offences; establishing the JP court and disestablishing the district court; and for the inspection of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 27 February 2006. At its meeting on 31 May 2006, the Justice 1 Committee, as lead Committee, took oral evidence at Stage 1 from the Solicitor General for Scotland, the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, the Scottish Executive and Hugh Henry MSP, Deputy Minister for Justice. The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 5 July 2006 recommending that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to, subject to receipt of further information from the Executive. The Parliament passed the Bill at Stage 1 on 14 September 2006. The Stage 1 Debate of the Bill can be viewed on the [Official Report](#). Stage 2 consideration of the Bill by the Justice 1 Committee began on 4 October 2006 and was completed on 22 November 2006. Stage 3 amendments may now be lodged with the clerks to the Justice 1 Committee.

[Crofting Reform etc. Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to make further provision as regards crofting and the Scottish Land Court.

Current Status:

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 2 March 2006. The Environmental and Rural Development Committee has now completed taking oral evidence at Stage 1. The Committee's [Stage 1 Report](#) was published on 5 July 2006 and the Committee was unable to recommend that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to in their entirety. The Scottish Executive published a [response](#) to the Committee's Stage 1 Report on 21 September 2006, in which it agreed to amend significant parts of the Bill, if it proceeds to Stage 2. The Bill was passed at Stage 1 by the Parliament on 27 September 2006. A transcript of the Stage 1 Debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#).

The Committee completed examination of the Bill at Stage 2 on 29 November 2006. Stage 3 amendments may now be lodged with the clerks to the Environment and Rural Development Committee.

[Custodial Sentences and Weapons \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill of the Scottish Parliament to restate and amend the law relating to the confinement and release of prisoners; to make provision relating to the control of weapons; and for connected purposes.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 2 October 2006 by Cathy Jamieson 2006. The Justice 2 Committee has been designated as lead Committee. At its last meeting on 12 December 2006 the Committee considered a draft report, in private. It is expected that consideration of the draft report will continue, in private, at a subsequent meeting of the Committee on 19 December and that the Committee will consider a report from the Justice 2 Sub-Committee on its inquiry into child-sex offenders.

[Edinburgh Airport Rail Link Bill \(P\)](#)

A Bill to authorise the construction of new railways to link Edinburgh Airport to the national rail network and to make provision concerning planning agreements and developer contributions relating to the railway.

Current Status:

The Bill was introduced into the Parliament on 16 March 2006. The Edinburgh Airport Rail Link Bill Committee met on 18 April 2006 and elected Scott Barrie MSP as its Convener and Jamie McGrigor MSP as its Deputy Convener. The Committee has now completed taking oral evidence on the Bill at Preliminary Stage. The Committee published its [Preliminary Stage Report](#) on the Bill on 15 September 2006 recommending, by a majority, that the Parliament agrees to the general principles of the Bill. The Parliament passed the Bill at Preliminary Stage on 21 September 2006. The Preliminary Stage Debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#).

The Committee appointed Hugh Begg to act as the Assessor at Consideration Stage. The Assessor took oral evidence from the Promoter and objectors to the Bill at oral hearings from 27 November to 30 November 2006. The written evidence submitted by the Promoter and objectors for Consideration Stage, Phase 1, can be viewed [here](#). The Assessor will now produce his report with a recommendation for the EARL Bill Committee. The Committee will then produce its own report and can choose to accept or disregard the Assessor's recommendations.

The Committee will meet on 19 December 2006 and take oral evidence on issues outstanding from Preliminary Stage from Network Rail, Transport Scotland and the Promoter.

Education (School Meals etc.)(Scotland) Bill (M)

A Bill to make provision for free school meals, water and milk in education authority primary schools; to confer further powers on the Scottish Ministers to extend such provision; to require the Scottish Ministers to set nutritional standards for certain school meals and to establish a complaints procedure in relation to the standards; and to confer powers on the Scottish Ministers to regulate the sale and advertisement of food and drink at certain schools.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into the Parliament on 27 September 2006 by Frances Curran MSP. The Communities Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill. The Finance Committee took oral evidence on the Financial Memoranda to the Bill at its last meeting on 21 November 2006 from representatives of the Scottish Prison Service and the Scottish Executive. No date has been set for further consideration of this Bill.

Glasgow Airport Rail Link Bill (P)

A Bill to authorise the construction of a railway from a point east of Paisley St James Station to Glasgow Airport and to make improvements in the existing railway between Paisley St James Station and Glasgow Central Station.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 31 January 2006 by Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive (now Strathclyde Partnership for Transport). The Glasgow Airport Rail Link Bill Committee (as lead Committee) completed taking oral evidence at Preliminary Stage and published its [Preliminary Stage Report](#) on 8 June 2006, agreeing to the general principles of the Bill. The Preliminary Stage Debate in the Chamber of the Parliament took place on 21 June 2006 and the Bill was passed at Preliminary Stage. A full transcript of the Preliminary Stage debate can be read in the [Official Report](#).

Assessor Hearings took place from 31 August to 8 September 2006 and oral evidence was heard by the Assessor from the Promoter and those remaining objectors who were not resting on their written evidence. The Committee published its [Consideration Stage report](#) on 30 October 2006.

The Bill was passed by the Parliament on 29 November 2006 with 118 votes for, 8 against and no abstentions. A transcript of the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.

[Health Board Elections \(Scotland\) Bill \(M\)](#)

This Bill seeks to make provision for local public elections to health boards in Scotland.

Current status

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 31 March 2006 by Bill Butler MSP. The Health Committee, as lead Committee, is currently examining the Bill at Stage 1. **The Committee continued its consideration of its draft Stage 1 Report at its last meeting on 12 December 2006.**

[Home Energy Efficiency Targets \(Scotland\) Bill \(M\)](#)

A Bill to require the Scottish Executive to set targets for achieving energy efficiency in domestic dwellings and to require the publication of an action plan and progress reports.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 19 September 2006 by Shiona Baird MSP. The Communities Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill. No date has been set for further consideration of this Bill.

[Legal Profession and Legal Aid \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to establish the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission; to make provision as regards complaints against members of the legal profession in Scotland and other matters concerning the regulation of that profession; and to make provision in connection with the administration of the Scottish Legal Aid Fund, including a register of advisers in connection with advice and assistance.

Current Status:

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 1 March 2006. The Justice 2 Committee (as lead Committee) published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 30 June 2006 which supported the general principles of the Bill. The Parliament, sitting in plenary session, debated and passed the Bill at Stage 1 on 7 September 2006. The transcripts of the debate can be read in the [Official Report](#). The Committee completed examination of the Bill at Stage 2 at its last meeting on 31 October 2006. **The Parliament, sitting in plenary session, passed the Bill at Stage 3 on 14 December 2006. A transcript of the debate is available in the [Official Report](#). The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.**

[Planning etc \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to make further provision relating to town and country planning and to make provision for business improvement districts.

Current status:

The Communities Committee (as lead Committee) has been considering its draft Report on the Bill at Stage 1 in recent meetings. The Committee published its Stage 1 Report [Volume 1](#) and [Volume 2](#) on the Bill on 10 May 2006. The Parliament, sitting in plenary

session, passed the Bill at Stage 1 on 17 May 2006. The Committee began examination of the Bill at Stage 2 at its meeting on 13 September 2006 and completed Stage 2 examination at its last meeting on 4 October 2006. The Bill was passed by the Parliament at the Stage 3 debate on 15 and 16 November 2006. Full transcripts of the [first day's debate](#) and the [second day's debate](#) are available in the Official Report. The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.

[Prostitution \(Public Places\) \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to amend the law in relation to prostitution in public places; and for connected purposes.

Current status:

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 15 September 2006. The Local Government and Transport Committee has been designated lead Committee. At its meeting on 28 November 2006, the Committee took oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill from George Lyon MSP, Deputy Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform. At its last meeting on 5 December 2006, the Committee gave further consideration to its draft Stage 1 Report. **The Committee will next meet on 19 December 2006 to give further consideration to the draft Report.**

[Protection of Vulnerable Groups \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to bar certain individuals from working with children or certain adults; to require the Scottish Ministers to keep lists of those individuals; to make further provision in relation to those lists; to establish a scheme under which information about individuals working or seeking to work with children or certain adults is collated and disclosed; to make provision about the sharing of information relevant to the protection of children; to amend Part 5 of the Police Act 1997; to amend the meaning of school care accommodation service in the Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001; and for connected purposes.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 25 September 2006 by Robert Brown MSP, Deputy Minister for Education and Young People. The Education Committee has been designated lead committee. **At its last meeting on 13 December 2006, the Committee considered its draft Stage 1 Report and will continue to do so at its next meeting on 19 December 2006.**

[Rights of Relatives to Damages \(Mesothelioma\) \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to amend the law concerning the right of certain relatives of a deceased person to claim damages in respect of the death of the deceased from mesothelioma.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 27 September 2006 by Hugh Henry MSP, Deputy Justice Minister. The Justice 1 Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill and is currently taking oral evidence on the Bill's general principles. At its last meeting on 13 December 2006, the Committee took oral evidence from Johann Lamont MSP, Deputy Minister for Justice; Paul Cackette, Head of Civil Justice, Law Reform and International Division, Scottish Executive; Lorna Brownlee, Bill Team Leader, Scottish Executive; Bob Cockburn, Deputy Principal Clerk of Session, Scottish Court Service; and Alison Fraser, Office of the Solicitor of the Scottish Executive. **The Committee will continue to consider the Bill at its next meeting on 9 January 2007.**

[Schools \(Health Promotion and Nutrition\) \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to make provision about the promotion of health in certain schools and certain school hostels; and to amend the law in relation to the provision of food and drink for certain pupils.

Current status:

The Bill was introduced by Peter Peacock MSP on 8 September 2006. The Communities Committee has been designated lead Committee and began examination of the Bill at Stage 1 on 24 October 2006. At its last meeting on 6 December 2006, the Committee took oral evidence from Hugh Henry MSP, Minister for Education and Young People and representatives from the Scottish Executive. **The Committee will give further consideration to the Bill at its next meeting on 19 December 2006.**

Scottish Commission for Human Rights (Ex)

A Bill to create a 'Scottish Commissioner for Human Rights' (SCHR). The function of the SCHR will be to promote awareness and understanding of, and respect for, human rights. The SCHR will have responsibility for devolved human rights issues in Scotland, whereas the proposed UK Commission for Equality and Human Rights will have responsibility for reserved human rights issues in Scotland. The SCHR will be independent, and accountable to the Scottish Parliament, not the Executive.

Current Status:

The Justice 1 Committee (as lead committee) published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 23 February 2006. In the report, the Committee failed to give its endorsement to the Bill at Stage 1. However, the Parliament, sitting in plenary session, agreed to the general principles of the Bill and passed the Bill at Stage 1 on 3 May 2006.

During examination of the Bill at Stage 2, the Executive sought to amend the Bill to change the creation of a single Commissioner to the creation of a Scottish Human Rights Commission, comprising a number of members, in response to previous representations and bringing Scotland into line with a large number of other Human Rights Commissions overseas. The Committee ultimately rejected this amendment.

The Bill was passed at Stage 3 on 2 November 2006 by 74 votes to 41 votes. Significantly the Executive proposed a similar amendment at Stage 3 to change the Bill to establish a Commission in place of a single Commissioner. This amendment was agreed to and it is now proposed that the new Commission will comprise one chairperson and up to four other members. A transcript of the Stage 3 debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). **The Bill received Royal Assent on 8 December 2006. A copy of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006 is available [here](#).**

Scottish Register of Tartans Bill (M)

A Bill to establish a Scottish Register of Tartans and to provide for the appointment and functions of the Keeper of that Register.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 27 September by Jamie McGrigor MSP. The Enterprise and Culture Committee has been designated lead committee for examination of this Bill. The Committee began taking oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill at its meeting on 5 December 2006. The Committee took evidence from Jamie McGrigor MSP; David Cullum, Clerk, Non-Executive Bills Unit; and Robert Marr, Assistant Legal Adviser, Directorate of Legal Services, the Scottish Parliament. The Committee

agreed to write to the Scottish Executive to note that its withdrawal from appearing before the Committee for its scheduled evidence session at this meeting was unacceptable.

The Committee also agreed to ask the Scottish Executive what involvement it has had in discussions between the current tartan registers in existence and what suggested solutions it may have to resolve disagreement between the current registers. The Committee deferred consideration of a draft Stage 1 report until evidence has been submitted by the Scottish Executive.

[St Andrew's Day Bank Holiday \(Scotland\) Bill \(M\)](#)

A Bill to establish a bank holiday for St Andrew's Day.

Current status:

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament by Dennis Canavan MSP on 19 May 2005. On 29 September 2005 the Enterprise and Culture Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on the Bill. The Stage 1 debate was held on 6 October 2005 and the Parliament voted to refer the Bill back to the Enterprise and Culture Committee, as lead committee, for further consideration at Stage 1.

At its meeting on 12 September 2006, the Committee took Stage 1 evidence from a number of individuals, including Tom McCable MSP, Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform. The Committee's [Second Report at Stage 1](#) on the Bill was published on 21 September 2006. The Committee recommended that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to but that the Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament learn "lessons" from consideration of the Bill including timetabling, consultation and liaison with the non-Executive Bills Unit. The Parliament passed the Bill at Stage 1 on 28 September. The transcript from the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#).

The Committee completed examination of the Bill at Stage 2 on 7 November 2006. The Bill was passed by the Parliament at Stage 3 on 29 November 2006. A transcript of the debate can be viewed in the [Official Report](#). The Bill now awaits Royal Assent.

[Transport and Works \(Scotland\) Bill \(Ex\)](#)

A Bill to provide for the making of orders related to, or to matters connected with, the construction or operation of railways, tramways, other guided transport systems, trolley vehicle systems and inland waterways; to make changes to procedures applicable to orders and schemes under the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, the Harbours Act 1964 and the Pilotage Act 1987; to make further provision as regards grants for 5 purposes relating to transport; and for connected purposes. The Bill seeks to reform the current Private Bill Process in the Scottish Parliament in relation to large infrastructure projects.

Current Status:

The Bill was introduced into the Scottish Parliament on 26 June 2006 by Tavish Scott MSP, Minister for Transport and Telecommunications. The Local Government and Transport Committee has been designated lead Committee for examination of this Bill. The Committee published its [Stage 1 Report](#) on 14 November 2006 and recommended that the general principles of the Bill be agreed to. The Bill was passed by the Parliament at Stage 1 on 22 November 2006. A transcript of the debate is available in the [Official Report](#). **The Committee completed examination of the Bill at Stage 2 on 12 December 2006. Stage 3 amendments may now be lodged with the clerks to the Local Government and Transport Committee.**

Treatment of Drug Users (Scotland) Bill (M)

A Bill to provide a scheme under which drug users and their families can obtain an integrated health and social care plan for their treatment and rehabilitation; to fund additional treatment services for drug misuse from the proceeds of drug-related crime; and for connected purposes.

Current Status

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 29 September 2006 by Rosemary Byrne MSP. The Health Committee has been designated lead Committee for examination of this Bill and will begin scrutiny of the general principles of the Bill at its meeting on 23 January 2007.

CHAMBER BUSINESS

Wednesday 20 December 2006

10.00 am Time for Reflection – The Most Revd Dr Idris Jones, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Equal Opportunities Committee Debate: 2nd Report 2006, Removing Barriers and Creating Opportunities

2.00 pm Parliamentary Bureau Motions

followed by Finance Committee Debate: 7th Report 2006, Inquiry into Accountability and Governance

followed by Stage 1 Debate: Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill

followed by Financial Resolution: Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill

followed by Justice 2 Committee Motion – Civil Appeals (Scotland) Bill

followed by Business Motion

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.30 pm Decision Time

followed by Members' Business – debate on the subject of S2M-5280 Maureen Macmillan: Rise in Alcohol-Related Crime Figures in the Highlands and Islands

Thursday 21 December 2006

9.15 am Parliamentary Bureau Motions

The Clerk has been advised of the topic of the following Scottish National Party business

followed by Scottish National Party Debate: Trident

followed by Scottish National Party Debate: Post Offices

11.40 am General Question Time

12 noon First Minister's Question Time

followed by Members' Business – debate on the subject of S2M-5117 Andrew Welsh: Respect Your Life, Not a Knife

2.15 pm Themed Question Time

Education and Young People, Tourism, Culture and Sport;

Finance and Public Services and Communities

2.55 pm Procedures Committee Debate: 6th Report 2006, Public Bills and Substitution; 7th Report 2006, Members' Interests (Parliamentary Determinations and Resolutions); 8th Report 2006, Consolidation Bill Procedure; 9th Report 2006, Rule 10.3.2 (the "20-day rule")

followed by Finance Committee Debate: Stage 2 of the 2007-08 Budget Process

followed by Parliamentary Bureau Motions

5.00 pm Decision Time

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Environment and Rural Development Committee 19 December 2006

The Committee will meet at 9.15 am in Committee Room 1

1. Scrutiny of sustainable development: The Committee will take evidence by video-conference on the scrutiny of sustainable development from—

Heidi Hautala, Member of the Parliament of Finland and member of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development.

2. Petition PE799: The Committee will consider correspondence from the Minister for Environment and Rural Development and the petitioners regarding petition PE799 by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

3. Petitions: The Committee will consider the following petitions—

PE956 by Mary Douglas calling on the Parliament to urge the Executive to ensure the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, are applied in relation to ship-to-ship oil transfers in Scotland; and

PE982 by B Linden Jarvis calling on the Parliament to consider and debate the implications of proposed ship-to-ship transfers of oil at anchor in the Forth Estuary, specifically focussing such consideration and debate on the likely impact of such operations upon wildlife, tourism, local authority funding of clean-up and how it may use its powers within the 12-mile tidal limits to protect the local ecology, scenery, environment and areas of special scientific interest and habitat within the Estuary.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee will consider the following negative instrument—

the Plant Protection Products (Scotland) Amendment (No. 3) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/576).

5. **Scrutiny of sustainable development (in private):** The Committee will consider the evidence received to date, and decide how to proceed with this inquiry.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 9 January, the Committee will begin to take oral evidence on its marine environment inquiry.

The Committee will continue to take evidence on its marine environment inquiry at subsequent meetings on 17 and 24 January. The Committee expects to begin consideration of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2 at its meeting on 24 January.

**Audit Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 9.30 am in Committee Room 2

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take agenda items 6 and 7 in private.

2. **Overview of the financial performance of the NHS in Scotland:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on his report entitled "Overview of the financial performance of the NHS in Scotland 2005-06" (AGS/2006/14).

3. **Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on the Section 22 report entitled "The 2005/06 Audit of the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency".

4. **Efficient Government:** The Committee will receive a briefing from the Auditor General for Scotland on his report entitled "The Efficient Government Initiative: A Progress Report" (AGS/2006/15).

5. **Relocation of Scottish Executive Departments, Agencies and NDPBs:** The Committee will take evidence on its inquiry into the AGS report entitled "Relocation of Scottish Executive Departments, Agencies and NDPBs" from—

Sir John Elvidge, Permanent Secretary, and Richard Wakeford, Head of Department, Environment and Rural Affairs Department, and Neil Rennick, Head of Public Bodies and Relocation Division, Scottish Executive.

6. **Relocation of Scottish Executive Departments, Agencies and NDPBs:** The Committee will consider the evidence taken at agenda item 5.

7. **Consideration of approach:** The Committee will consider its approach to the AGS reports entitled "Overview of the financial performance of the NHS in Scotland 2005-06" (AGS/2006/13), "The 2005/06 Audit of the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency", "The Efficient Government Initiative: A Progress Report", "Informed to Care – Managing IT to deliver information in the NHS in Scotland" (AGS/2006/12) and "Catering for patients: A follow-up report" (AGS/2006/13).

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 9 January, the Committee will continue to take evidence on its inquiry into relocation. The Committee will consider a draft report on its community planning inquiry at a future meeting.

Communities Committee 19 December 2006

The Committee will meet at 10.00 am in Committee Room 5

1. **Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider its draft Stage 1 report.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 9 January, it is expected that the Committee will continue to consider its draft report on the Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) (Scotland) Bill. The Committee will also consider subordinate legislation on the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel and Home Energy Efficiency.

Subordinate Legislation Committee 19 December 2006

The Committee will meet at 10.30 am in Committee Room 6

1. **Legislative consent memorandum:** The Committee will consider the powers to make subordinate legislation conferred on Scottish Ministers in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill.

2. **Executive responses:** The Committee will consider Executive responses in relation to the following instruments—

the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/570);

the Scottish Charity Appeals Panel Rules 2006, (SSI 2006/571);

the Conservation of Salmon (Collection of Statistics) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/572); and

the Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/582).

3. Draft instruments subject to approval: The Committee will consider the following—

the Farm Woodland Premium Schemes and SFGS Farmland Premium Scheme Amendment (Scotland) Scheme 2007, (SSI 2006/draft); and

the Scottish Local Government Elections Order 2007, (SSI 2006/draft).

4. Draft instruments subject to annulment: The Committee will consider the following—

the Forestry Commission Byelaws 1982 Revocation (Scotland) Byelaws 2007, (SSI 2006/draft).

5. Instruments subject to annulment: The Committee will consider the following—

the Sheep and Goats (Identification and Traceability) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/594).

6. Instruments not laid before the Parliament: The Committee will consider the following—

the Registration Services (Attestation and Authentication) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/597);

the Registration of Births, Still-births, Deaths and Marriages (Prescription of Forms and Errors) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/598);

the Water Services etc. (Scotland) Act 2005 (Commencement No. 5) Order 2006, (SSI 2006/599); and

the Fees in the Registers of Scotland Amendment Order 2006, (SSI 2006/600).

7. Inquiry into the regulatory framework in Scotland (in private): The Committee will consider its draft report.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 9 January, it is expected that the Committee will consider primary legislation, Scottish statutory instruments and any other documents subject to Parliamentary procedure.

**Standards and Public Appointments Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 11.00 am in Committee Room 4

1. **Cross-Party Group on Carers:** The Committee will consider an application to establish a Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Carers.
2. **Replacing the Members Interest Order:** The Committee will consider responses to its 3rd Report 2006, *Consultation on Determinations required under the Interests of Members of the Scottish Parliament Act 2006*, and consider draft reports to the Parliament on the determinations.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 16 January, it is expected that the Committee will consider replacing the Members' Interest Order in further detail.

**Education Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 1.30 pm in Committee Room 5

1. **Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.
2. **Teachers' Agreement inquiry (in private):** The Committee will agree an approach to an inquiry into the implementation of the Teachers' Agreement.
3. **Legacy paper (in private):** The Committee will consider whether to produce a legacy paper.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 17 January, it is expected that the Committee will take oral evidence on the implementation of the Teachers' Agreement.

The Committee will continue to take evidence on its Teachers' Agreement inquiry at subsequent meetings.

**Edinburgh Airport Rail Link Bill Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 6

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to consider, in private, at this meeting and future meetings—
 - the assessor's report on outstanding objections at phase one of Consideration Stage;
 - the Committee's approach to its phase one Consideration Stage report; and
 - its draft Appropriate Assessment report on the Firth of Forth Special Protected Area.

2. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will decide whether to consider, in private, at future meetings:

- its draft European Protected Species report; and
- its draft phase one Consideration Stage report.

3. **Oral Evidence:** The Committee will take evidence on issues outstanding from its Preliminary Stage report from—

Ron McAulay, Director, Scotland, Susan Anderson, Route Enhancement Manager and Geoff Cook, Senior Commercial Schemes Sponsor, Network Rail;

and then from—

Bill Reeve, Head of Rail Delivery and Ian Mylroi, Head of Rail Projects, Transport Scotland;

and then from—

Tavish Scott MSP, Minister for Transport, Bill Reeve, Head of Rail Delivery and Ian Mylroi, Head of Rail Projects, Transport Scotland;

and then from—

Barry Cross, Project Director, Kevin Murray, Senior Project Manager, Alan Somerville, Commercial Manager (Heavy Rail) and Pat Diamond, Project Finance Manager, tie Ltd, Gail Jeffrey, Senior Project Manager, Scott Wilson Railways and Alison Gorlov, Partner, John Kennedy & Co.

4. **Assessor report and draft Consideration Stage report:** The Committee will consider a report by the assessor on outstanding objections to the Bill and its approach to its draft phase one Consideration Stage report.

5. **Draft Appropriate Assessment report:** The Committee will consider its draft Appropriate Assessment report.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting, the Committee will consider its scrutiny of the Edinburgh Airport Rail Link Bill at Consideration Stage, Phase 1.

**European and External Relations Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 1

1. **Decisions on taking business in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take items 7 and 8 in private.

2. **Inquiry into the European Commission's Strategy for Growth and Jobs:** The Committee will take evidence from—

Marion Dewar, Lisbon Unit, Secretariat General and Neil Mitchison, Head of Representation in Edinburgh, European Commission;

and then from—

Nicol Stephen MSP, Deputy First Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning.

3. Transposition and implementation of EU legislation in Scotland: The Committee will consider an update from the Scottish Executive.

4. The European Commission's Work Programme 2006 - Tracking issues identified by the Committee: The Committee will consider an update paper.

5. Pre- and post-EU Council scrutiny: The Committee will discuss the agendas and information received from the Scottish Executive on the following meetings of the Council of the EU—

Previous Councils

General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), 13-14 November
Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), 21 November
Education, Youth and Culture Council, 13-14 November
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, 23 November
Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 20-21 November
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 30 November -
1 December

Forthcoming Councils

Environment Council, 18 December 2006

6. Sift of EC/EU documents and draft legislation: The Committee will consider the latest list of EC/EU documents and draft legislation proposals received for this meeting.

7. Inquiry in to the European Commission's Strategy for Growth and Jobs: The Committee will consider issues for inclusion in its report.

8. Work programme: The Committee will consider a paper by the Clerk.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 16 January, it is expected that the Committee will take evidence in relation to scrutinising European legislation.

**Health Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 4

1. Subordinate Legislation: The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

the Health Protection Agency (Scottish Health Functions) Order 2006, (SSI 2006/559);

the Feeding Stuffs (Scotland) and the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/578);

the Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/579); and

the Meat (Official Controls Charges) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/580).

2. Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will hear evidence from the Deputy Minister on amendments introduced to Parts 2 – 4 of the Bill.

3. Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Bill: The Committee will consider the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 2).

Proposed future business

The Committee will next meet in January, after the Christmas and New Year recess.

**Justice 2 Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 2

1. Child-Sex Offenders: The Committee will consider a report by the Justice 2 Sub-Committee.

2. Custodial Sentences and Weapons (Scotland) Bill (in private): The Committee will consider a draft Stage 1 report.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 9 January, the Committee will take evidence on the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Bill Legislative Consent Memorandum from Professor Alistair MacLeary, Chairman, Scottish Committee of the Council on Tribunals; and the Deputy Minister for Justice.

**Local Government and Transport Committee
19 December 2006**

The Committee will meet at 2.00 pm in Committee Room 3

1. Subordinate Legislation: The Committee will consider the following negative instruments—

the Marriage (Approval of Places) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/573);

the Civil Partnership (Attestation) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/574); and

the Registration Services (Fees, etc.) (Scotland) Regulations 2006, (SSI 2006/575).

2. Prostitution (Public Places) (Scotland) Bill (in private): The Committee will consider a draft of its Stage 1 Report on the Prostitution (Public Places) (Scotland) Bill.

Proposed future business

At its next meeting on 16 January, it is expected that the Committee take oral evidence from Sir Peter Burt on A Fairer Way Report by the Local Government and Finance Review Committee.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any queries in respect of the information in this Parliamentary Bulletin or require advice on the parliamentary process or the drafting of amendments, please contact [Alison Presly](#) on 0131 625 8156.