INTRODUCTION

1. As required under Rule 9.3.2 of the Parliament’s Standing Orders, this Financial Memorandum is published to accompany the Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, introduced in the Scottish Parliament on <Introduced Date>.

2. The following other accompanying documents are published separately:

   -Explanatory Notes (SP Bill <Bill Number>-EN);
   -a Policy Memorandum (SP Bill <Bill Number>-PM);
   -statements on legislative competence by the Presiding Officer and the Scottish Government (SP Bill <Bill Number>-LC).

3. This Financial Memorandum has been prepared by the Scottish Government to set out the costs associated with the measures introduced by the Bill. It does not form part of the Bill and has not been endorsed by the Parliament.

4. The objective of the Census (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill is to provide for census questions on sexual orientation and some aspects of gender identity to be asked on a voluntary basis. The intention is to use the enabling power in the Bill to place questions on transgender status and history (as aspects of gender identity) on a voluntary basis. The policy recognises both the importance and sensitivity of the new questions and seeks to mitigate concerns about intrusion into private life by placing the questions on a voluntary basis.

COSTS ON THE SCOTTISH ADMINISTRATION

5. The costs of the Bill are negligible. Whilst the Bill enables the asking of questions on sexual orientation and some aspects of gender identity on a voluntary basis, it does not require that these questions are asked. Parliament will consider the particulars (to be sought by the census questions) in the 2021 Census as part of the scrutiny of the Census Order to be made under section 1 of the Census Act 1920. Thus the costs associated with the asking of these questions (if any) will not arise from this Bill, they will arise from the Census Order.

6. Potentially this Bill could lead to small savings in the amount of coding and processing downstream as voluntary questions do not have any post-completion imputation carried out to ensure completeness. It is very difficult to estimate the size of these savings and given that they will be small in relation to the overall levels of processing required, they are not considered to be material.
7. There is a small staff cost associated with the work of the Bill team which is estimated to be minimal.

SUMMARY

8. The direct costs of this Bill are limited to the cost of the Bill team which is estimated to be minimal.
CENSUS (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM