

PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU

REFERRAL OF A BILL AT STAGE 1: PATIENT SAFETY COMMISSIONER FOR SCOTLAND BILL

Introduction

1. The Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 6 October 2022 by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Humza Yousaf MSP.

Discussion

2. The Bill makes provision to establish a new office of Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland. The Commissioner is to be appointed by the Crown, on nomination of the Scottish Parliament.
3. The Commissioner is to have certain general functions, namely to advocate for systemic improvement in the safety of health care and to promote the importance of the views of patients and other members of the public in relation to the safety of health care. In exercising those functions, the Commissioner may carry out a range of activities including (but not limited to) gathering information and making recommendations for systemic improvements in the safety of health care.
4. The Bill is focussed solely on the establishment of the office of Patient Safety Commissioner and the functions of the Commissioner in relation to health care safety. The remit of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee includes to consider and report on matters within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.
5. No other committee remit appears to be engaged.

Recommendation

6. The Bureau is therefore invited to agree to refer the Patient Safety Commissioner for Scotland Bill to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee under Rule 9.6.1 for consideration at Stage 1.

Parliamentary Business Team
October 2022