Parliamentary Bureau – Approval of Scottish Statutory Instruments and Laid Document

Affirmative Instruments

Town and Country Planning (Marine Fish Farming) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/Draft)

1. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

> **Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau:** That the Parliament agrees that the Town and Country Planning (Marine Fish Farming) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2025 (SSI 2025/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

2. Marine planning zones set out the spatial limits for local authorities responsibilities for planning controls, under the 1997 Act, of marine fish and shellfish farms in Scottish waters.

3. The purpose of this Order is to extend the boundaries of existing marine planning zones from 3 nautical miles out to the territorial limit i.e. 12 nautical miles, except in instances where a section of a marine planning zone meets the boundary of another marine planning zone, or where a section of a marine planning zone meets the Scottish Adjacent Waters Boundaries.

4. This will align marine planning zones to the definition of 'development' for fish farming under the 1997 Act, allowing planning applications for development of fish farms located between 3 and 12 nautical miles to be submitted to a relevant planning authority.

Consideration by committee

5. At its meeting on 28 May 2025 the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee agreed to recommend by division (For 7, Against 1, Abstentions 0) that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's report was published on 3 June 2025.

Restitution Fund (Scotland) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/Draft)

6. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

> **Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau:** That the Parliament agrees that the Restitution Fund (Scotland) Order 2025 (SSI 2025/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

7. To revoke the Restitution Fund (Scotland) Order 2021 in order to remove the Scottish Police Benevolent Fund as the operator of the Restitution Fund. The Order maintains provision for the administration of the Fund including; making payments from the Fund (including the requirement for written applications); record keeping; and reporting back to Ministers.

Consideration by committee

8. At its meeting on 4 June 2025 the Criminal Justice Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's report will be published by 8 June 2025 and available on the Committee reports page here.

Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/Draft)

9. Under Rule 10.6.5, the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

> **Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau:** That the Parliament agrees that the Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

10. To make consequential amendments and transitional provision as a result of the ending of tax credits by the UK Government. Tax Credits form a route for establishing eligibility and child responsibility in relation to Best Start Foods, Best Start Grant, Scottish Child Payment. They also form a route for eligibility to Funeral Support Payment, to the Winter Heating Payment and the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment. These provisions are required to ensure that the policy intent that devolved legislation should match the reality of which qualifying reserved benefits are available to determine eligibility for devolved benefits.

Consideration by committee

11. At its meeting on 29 May 2025 the Social Justice and Social Security Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's report will be published by 8 June 2025 and available on the Committee reports page here.

Laid Document subject to Parliamentary control

Scottish Public Services Ombudsman - Statement of Principles for Complaints Handling Procedures (SPSO 2025/01)

12. Under section 16A of the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002, the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) is required to publish a statement of principles concerning complaints handling. These are subject to Parliamentary approval and the Statement of Complaints Handling Principles were agreed by Parliament on 12 January 2011.

13. On 23 April 2025, the SPSO laid a revised set of Principles (see separate document) which, it states, place specific emphasis on learning from complaints; make clear the need for fairness to both the complainant and public body staff; and introduces language that highlights the importance of a positive complaints handling culture and taking a rights-based approach to complaints.

14. In correspondence with the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, the SPSO states that the revisions amount to material revisions to the existing complaint handling principles, and therefore require parliamentary approval. The Parliament considers such documents in the same way as it would consider an affirmative instrument and therefore the Bureau is required to lodge the following motion—

    Jamie Hepburn on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the SPSO Statement of Complaints Handling Principles (SPSO 2025/01) be approved.

Consideration by committee

15. At its meeting on 3 June 2025 the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee agreed to recommend that the SPSO Statement of Complaints Handling Principles (SPSO 2025/01) be approved. The Committee's report was published on 5 June 2024.

Decision

16. Business Managers are invited to note that the above motions will be lodged.

17. Business Managers should reserve their position if their party intends to speak against or oppose the motions.

Parliamentary Business Team
June 2025