

Parliamentary Bureau – Approval of Scottish Statutory Instruments

This paper covers the following Affirmative Scottish Statutory Instruments—

- [Council Tax \(Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [Private Housing Rent Control \(Exempt Property\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [National Bus Travel Concession Schemes \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland \(Composition and Rules of Procedure\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [First-tier Tribunal for Scotland \(Allocation of Functions to the Local Taxation Chamber\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 \(Exclusions and Exceptions\) \(Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [Hate Crime and Public Order \(Scotland\) Act 2021 \(Characteristic of Sex\) \(Amendment and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [Civic Government \(Scotland\) Act 1982 \(Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing\) Amendment Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [Public Services Reform \(Scottish Water\) Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)
- [Renewables Obligation \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

Affirmative Instruments

Scottish Statutory Instruments

[Council Tax \(Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

2. To:
- (a) establish a national default rate for Council Tax premiums for second homes and long-term empty homes of 100 per cent; and
 - (b) enable local authorities to vary that rate, including increasing or reducing the premium, applying no premium, or applying a discount, and to apply different approaches for different cases, classes of dwelling or areas.

Consideration by committee

3. At its meeting on 24 February 2026 the Local Government' Housing and Planning Committee agreed (by division: For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 2) to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's [report was published on 3 March 2026](#).

[Private Housing Rent Control \(Exempt Property\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Private Housing Rent Control (Exempt Property) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

5. To set out the description of properties exempt from rent control restrictions in the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016, as inserted by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2025.

Consideration by committee

6. At its meeting on 24 February 2026 the Local Government' Housing and Planning Committee agreed (by division: For 5, Against 1, Abstentions 0) to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's [report was published on 3 March 2026](#).

[National Bus Travel Concession Schemes \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) \(Scotland\) Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the National Bus Travel Concession Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

8. To amend the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the 2006 Order”) and the National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Young Persons (Scotland) Order 2021 (the “2021 Order”) to give Scottish Ministers the power to withdraw or suspend concessionary travel where an individual is found to be in breach of the standards of conduct determined by the Scottish Ministers while using the scheme. The instrument also sets out the procedural requirements that must be followed before withdrawing or suspending concessionary travel.

Consideration by committee

9. At its meeting on 17 February 2026 the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee agreed (by division: For 6, Against 0, Abstentions 1) to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee’s [report will be published by 9 March 2026 and available on the Committee report page here](#).

[First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland \(Composition and Rules of Procedure\) \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Local Taxation Chamber and Upper Tribunal for Scotland (Composition and Rules of Procedure) (Miscellaneous Amendment) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

11. To make amendments to the composition and rules of procedure of the Local Taxation Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland and the Upper Tribunal for Scotland to support the hearing and determination of visitor levy appeals.

[First-tier Tribunal for Scotland \(Allocation of Functions to the Local Taxation Chamber\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland (Allocation of Functions to the Local Taxation Chamber) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

13. To allocate functions relating to visitor levy appeals to the Local Taxation Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland. This includes:
- To allocate responsibility for determining visitor levy appeals to the Local Taxation Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland.
 - To ensure that appeals arising under the Visitor Levy (Scotland) Act 2024 are considered within a specialist tribunal chamber with appropriate taxation expertise.
 - To support the effective and consistent operation of the visitor levy appeals framework established by secondary legislation.
 - To provide clarity and legal certainty regarding the tribunal forum responsible for hearing visitor levy appeals.

Consideration by committee

14. At its meeting on 24 February 2026 the Local Government' Housing and Planning Committee agreed to recommend that the above two Instruments be approved. The Committee's [report was published on 3 March 2026](#).

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 \(Exclusions and Exceptions\) \(Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Domestic Homicide and Suicide Reviews) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

16. To allow information about spent convictions and alternatives to prosecution to be shared with a domestic homicide or suicide review when required. Domestic homicide and suicide reviews aim to identify what lessons can be learned where someone has died following suspected or known domestic abuse, and information on spent convictions and alternatives to prosecution will ensure the review has a full picture of the background and circumstances prior to the death, in order to effectively undertake the review of a reviewable death.

Consideration by committee

17. At its meeting on 25 February 2026 the Criminal Justice Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's [report was published on 4 March 2026](#).

[Hate Crime and Public Order \(Scotland\) Act 2021 \(Characteristic of Sex\) \(Amendment and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (Characteristic of Sex) (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

19. The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 (“the 2021 Act”) provides for the aggravation of offences by prejudice in relation to certain characteristics and offences relating to stirring up hatred against a group of persons defined in relation to certain characteristics. These Regulations add the characteristic of ‘sex’ to the 2021 Act. The effect of this is to create a further offence of stirring up hatred within the 2021 Act based on sex and to provide that an offence can be aggravated by prejudice on the basis of sex.

Consideration by committee

20. At its meeting on 25 February 2026 the Criminal Justice Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee’s [report will be published by 8 March 2026 and available on the Committee report page here](#).

[Civic Government \(Scotland\) Act 1982 \(Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing\) Amendment Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Amendment Order 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

22. This instrument amends the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006 (“the Order”), which regulates skin piercing and tattooing by giving local authorities in Scotland powers to license and inspect businesses carrying out these activities. It provides for consistent controls over businesses in order to manage and reduce the risks faced by potential clients, in relation to health and specifically the transmission of bloodborne viruses. It places requirements on such businesses including acupuncture therapists to comply with in terms of health and hygiene. The amendments to the Order made by this instrument remove the requirements for acupuncture therapists to wear disposable non-latex gloves should they know the client they are treating is infected with a blood-borne virus.

Consideration by committee

23. At its meeting on 3 March 2026 the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's [report was published on 4 March 2026](#).

[Public Services Reform \(Scottish Water\) Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Public Services Reform (Scottish Water) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

25. To amend the Water Industry (Scotland) Act 2002, which sets the statutory requirements for the composition of the Board of Scottish Water, to reduce the minimum number of executive members required on the Board of Scottish Water from 3 to 2 and amend the provisions on the composition of executive and non-executive members as a result. At present, Scottish Water has three executive members, the CEO, CFO and COO and eight non-executive members. The COO is expected to retire in the second half of 2026, and the Board has agreed to move to a structure with two executive members (CEO and CFO). Without legislative change, Scottish Water would be required to appoint another executive member to meet the current statutory minimum. The proposed Order would reduce the minimum number of executive members from three to two, allowing Scottish Water to adopt its preferred structure while retaining flexibility to appoint additional executive members (up to five) in future if needed.

Consideration by committee

At its meeting on 3 March 2026 the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's [report will be published by 7 March 2026 and available on the Committee report page here](#).

[Renewables Obligation \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2026 \(SSI 2026/Draft\)](#)

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

Graeme Dey on behalf of the Parliamentary Bureau: That the Parliament agrees that the Renewables Obligation (Scotland) Amendment Order 2026 (SSI 2026/Draft) be approved.

Purpose

27. To change the inflation index used to update the buy-out price for the Renewables Obligation Scotland (ROS) scheme, using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) instead of Retail Price Index (RPI). The policy note states that CPI is preferred as it is more internationally recognised and more consistent. RPI tends

to overestimate inflation, which means generators have been receiving higher payments than they would have under CPI. Changing indexation to CPI is expected to continue to give generators a reasonable and predictable rate of return and protection against inflation whilst making savings in the energy system.

Consideration by committee

At its meeting on 3 March 2026 the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee agreed to recommend that the Instrument be approved. The Committee's [report will be published by 8 March 2026 and available on the Committee report page here](#).

Decision

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

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

Parliamentary Business Team

March 2026