

Parliamentary Bureau - Legislative Consent Memorandum

Sporting Events Bill (UK legislation)

Introduction

1. Under Rule 9B.3.5, the Parliamentary Bureau is required to refer any legislative consent memorandum (LCM) that has been lodged with the Parliament to the committee within whose remit the subject matter of the relevant provision falls. If two or more committee remits are engaged, the Bureau is required to recommend to the Parliament which of them is to be designated as lead committee.

Sporting Events Bill

2. This Bill was introduced in the House of Lords on 14 May 2026.
3. An LCM was lodged by Stephen Flynn MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport on 5 June 2026 under Rule 9B3.1(a) of the Parliament's Standing Orders.
4. The Bill creates a UK-wide legislative framework for applying certain commercial protections to one-off major sporting events hosted in the UK. The Bill would allow the UK Government and devolved administrations to apply commercial protections, aimed at tackling ticket touting and ambush marketing, to qualifying sporting events that meet conditions set out in the Bill. This includes:
 - giving Scottish Ministers powers to apply ticket touting, advertising and trading provisions to qualifying events in Scotland,
 - ensuring that the UK Government seeks consent before making regulations that would be within devolved competence,
 - creating offences for ticket touting, unauthorised advertising, unauthorised trading, and a prohibition on unauthorised association, and conferring enforcement powers in relation to these offences,
 - empowering the Scottish Ministers to provide financial assistance to sporting events in Scotland.
5. It is the position of both the UK Government and Scottish Government that legislative consent is required due to the Bill's provisions, insofar as they may apply to Scotland, altering the executive competence of Scottish Ministers and being within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament. The LCM sets out that for clauses 1 to 13, 21, 22 and 25, the requirement arises due to the executive competence of the Scottish Ministers being altered, while for clauses 18 to 20, 23, 24, 26 and 28 to 30, and schedules 1 to 3 and 6, legislative consent is required because the provisions would be within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament.

6. The LCM states that the Scottish Government does not intend to lodge a motion on legislative consent in respect of the relevant provisions in this Bill at this time. The Scottish Government highlights that there has been a narrow window between public announcement of this Bill and its introduction, with no public consultation on the provisions in the Bill. While the Scottish Government has undertaken initial engagement with stakeholders (including Scottish local authorities, the Crown Officer and Procurator Fiscal Service, Police Scotland, VisitScotland and Trading Standards Scotland), it intends to engage further with stakeholders before deciding whether to recommend granting consent.
7. Information provided in the LCM highlights that the UK Government is looking for a decision from the Scottish Parliament on legislative consent by the end of October 2026.
8. In order to inform Scottish Parliamentary consideration of legislative consent for the Bill, the Scottish Government is seeking to reach a view on granting consent and intends to lodge a supplementary LCM soon after the summer recess.

Designation of lead committee

9. The relevant provisions in the Bill fall within the remit of the following committees:
 - **Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee** – whose remit is to consider and report on matters within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport (with the exception of transport); the Cabinet Secretary is responsible (amongst other things) for business support and entrepreneurship, retail, and tourism policy.
 - **Health, Care and Sport Committee** – whose remit (amongst other things) is to consider and report on matters relating to sport; the Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs, supports the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Care and is responsible (amongst other things) for sport and physical activity. As the Bill's relevant provisions relate to sporting events, it is considered that the remit of the Committee is engaged.
10. Of these, the remit of the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee appears most relevant because the LCM was lodged by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport, and the relevant provisions in the Bill relate primarily to the regulation of commercial activity associated with major sporting events.
11. In session 6, the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee (CEEAC) was designated as the lead committee for consideration of the UEFA European Championship (Scotland) Bill, which contained provisions related to ticketing and street trading similar to those proposed by the Sporting Events Bill. However, major events engaged the remit of the CEEAC Committee having fallen within the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary for Culture earlier in Session 6. It appears that major events are now instead under the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Tourism and Transport. We do not consider that this Bill engages the remit of the new Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee.

12. It is therefore recommended that the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee be designated as lead committee in consideration of this LCM. This does not prevent the other committees mentioned above from considering any matters raised by the LCM in which they have an interest and reporting to the lead committee as a secondary committee.
13. The LCM will also be considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee in relation to any provisions in the Bill conferring powers on the Scottish Ministers to make subordinate legislation.

Recommendation

14. The Bureau is invited to recommend, under Rule 9B.3.5, that the Parliament designate the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee as lead committee in consideration of the LCM relating to the Sporting Events Bill. A draft Bureau motion is set out below.

Parliamentary Business Team June 2026

Draft Parliamentary Bureau motion:

Designation of Lead Committee – That the Parliament agrees that the Economy, Tourism and Energy Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the legislative consent memorandum relating to the Sporting Events Bill (UK Legislation).