



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Sarah Boyack MSP

Via email

11 June 2025

Dear Sarah,

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

The Committee considered the above Bill at its meeting on 10 June.

The Committee noted that the definition in section 3(1) of the Bill is wide. The Committee also notes the Member's concern in the Delegated Powers Memorandum that 'wellbeing' is difficult to define and that the Bill references several key factors which the Member considers to be essential to individual and societal wellbeing.

The Committee is concerned that a wide definition has consequences for the Bill as a whole. The Committee is concerned that without further detail about the definition of wellbeing, the general functions of the Future Generations Commissioner for Scotland as set out in section 5 of the Bill are also very wide.

As such, the new Commissioner could exercise the duty to issue guidance with content which is not envisaged by the Member (or indeed the Parliament) and which is not subject to any scrutiny.

The Committee asks the Member if consideration has been given to a more detailed definition of wellbeing and why more detail has not been included in section 3 of the Bill.

The Committee also asks why the power of the Future Generations Commissioner for Scotland to prepare and issue guidance in section 5(2) of the Bill does not provide any specification of the detail of the content of the guidance or is subject to any type of formal scrutiny by the Parliament.

The Committee requests a response to this letter by **Tuesday, 17 June 2025**.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McMillan MSP

Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

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