



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Letter to stakeholders

2 February 2026

### European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill: Reconsideration Stage

As you will know, the European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill was passed on 16 March 2021 but then referred to the UK Supreme Court, which ruled that aspects of the Bill were outwith the competence of the Scottish Parliament. As such the Bill could not be enacted without amendments being made.

Subsequently the then Deputy First Minister gave a commitment to Parliament that the Scottish Government would work with Mark Ruskell MSP (now the member in charge) to bring an amended Bill back to Parliament for a reconsideration stage in order to bring it within legislative competence.

The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government has now [written to Mr Ruskell](#) providing draft amendments to section 2, 4 and 5 of the Bill and consequential amendments to section 7.

A motion has been laid proposing the reconsideration of the Bill which Parliament has agreed to consider on 4 February.

The Local Government and Communities Committee was the lead committee scrutinising the Bill during Session 5 of the Scottish Parliament. There is no requirement for further committee scrutiny as part of Reconsideration Stage, however the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee has agreed that it wishes to seek your views on the Scottish Government's proposed amendments to the Bill. Please note the reconsideration stage of the Bill will only be concerned with those amendments, and will not offer additional scrutiny of other aspects of the Bill.

The parliamentary process for Reconsideration Stage of a Bill is laid out in this SPICe briefing:

[Reconsideration Stage: What happens when the Supreme Court decides a Bill is outside the Parliament's powers?](#)

The Committee therefore invites your views on the [proposed amendments to the Bill](#), and would welcome your response by 18th February 2026. This will be published on the Scottish Parliament's website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ariane Burgess".

**Ariane Burgess MSP**  
**Convener**