The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Jamie Hepburn MSP
Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
Scottish Government

2 November 2026

Dear Jamie,

Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Representation of the People Bill

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee at our meeting on 29 October regarding the Scottish Government's legislative consent memorandum (LCM) and supplementary LCMs on the Representation of the People Bill.

You told us that the Scottish and UK Governments remained in dialogue about a number of provisions in the UK Bill, and their relevance to devolved competence. You also explained that the outcome of those discussions would guide the Scottish Government's final decision on whether to recommend to the Scottish Parliament that the Bill be granted legislative consent.

To assist our work in compiling a report on the LCMs, the Committee would appreciate further updates on your engagement with the UK Government as these progress over the coming weeks. This includes any developments following your inter-ministerial meeting with UK counterparts, or amendments to the UK Bill or other commitments the Scottish Government has achieved which are likely to influence your thinking in terms of recommending consent.

In particular, the Committee would welcome (either in subsequent legislative consent memorandums, or in correspondence to the Committee) updates on discussions, and clarity on the Scottish Government's position in relation to:

- The proposed exclusion of youth detention accommodation from the annual electoral registration canvass in Great Britain, and the implications of this for the electoral register for Scottish Parliament and local government elections.

- The proposed restrictions on political parties accepting donations made in cryptoassets, including those relating to the payment of expenses through the donation of cryptoassets.

- The proposed restrictions on donations from overseas contributors, unincorporated associations, and companies and LLPs.

Contact: Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email sppa.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

- The proposed power for UK Ministers to impose similar or equivalent restrictions on donations to candidates and campaigners at Scottish elections as those imposed on political parties by the Bill, and what opportunity Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament will have to consider any such proposals.

- The proposed 'know your donor' risk assessment regime, and how Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament might be involved in any future changes to the regime and consultation on the Electoral Commission's associated guidance.

- The proposed introduction of UK-wide digital imprint requirements for third-party campaigners, and what powers Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament will continue to have in this area in relation to Scottish elections.

- The proposed measures relating to information sharing between the Electoral Commission and devolved public authorities, and what involvement or oversight Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament will have in this area.

- The proposed power for UK Ministers to amend or apply the Electoral Commission's civil sanctions regime in respect of devolved elections, and what opportunity the Scottish Parliament will have to consider any use of this power.

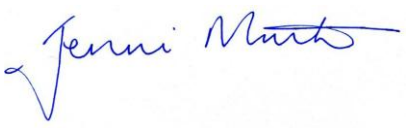
- The proposed power for UK Ministers to make provisions (in regulations) relating to devolved Scottish elections where such provisions were consequential on other proposed measures contained in the Bill.

The Committee requests an initial update on the above points **by the end of November.**

We also recognise that further amendments triggering consent could be agreed to as the Bill continues its progress through the House of Lords and would welcome updates us on these matters as appropriate.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Jenni Minto MSP
Convener