



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

Jamie Hepburn MSP
Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
Scottish Government

7 September 2026

Dear Jamie,

Representation of the People Bill: Legislative Consent Memorandum

Committee Members present at our business planning event earlier this week discussed the above. We noted that the UK Bill is wide-ranging across a number of matters to do with electoral law - some reserved, some devolved, as set out in the detailed and discursive Legislative Consent Memorandum of 21 August. We noted too that coming to a concluded view on legislative consent has been complicated by various amendments appearing to trigger further consent issues being laid or agreed as the Bill has progressed over several months. We do appreciate that this all requires careful consideration.

We note that a LCM setting out a concluded view on consent will be lodged in due course and look forward to seeing and scrutinising it. However, it would be concerning if that did not arrive in time for the Committee to consider, agree and set out to Parliament an informed view on consent in a report. Ensuring sufficient time for scrutiny is of particular concern to us in this case given the wide-ranging nature of the Bill as noted above and the number of issues on which the latest supplementary LCM indicates that discussions have been, or remain, ongoing between the Scottish and UK Governments.

In order to help us with that task, we would welcome you providing, as a supplement to the 21 August LCM, a summary of the key issues, from the Scottish Government's perspective, to be discussed and - hopefully - resolved with the UK Government. This by reference to Parts 4 and 5 in particular of the UK Bill, although if there were key issues in other Parts that you felt important to also mention, you should feel free to do so. This will help us determine what matters to focus on, and reduce the risk of the Committee running out of time to produce a considered report.

We would also be grateful to receive an indication from you of your latest understanding of whether the UK Government intends to introduce further "triggering" amendments to the Bill during its consideration in the House of Lords, the timeframe within which you expect consent discussions with the UK Government to conclude, and your latest understanding of the UK Government's desired timetable

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.

for the Bill's remaining stages. This will help us know how much time we have left to get on with scrutiny.

To help us in our forward planning, we would welcome a reply by **21 September** unless the LCM setting out a concluded view on consent is lodged before then.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jenni Minto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenni Minto MSP
Convener