

Scottish Parliament Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

Written submission by Max French, November 2025

Having reviewed Committee proceedings on the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill, I felt it important to write to clarify and correct some points raised in relation to a report I authored which has been referenced on numerous occasions during your proceedings and offer some related thoughts on the Scottish Government's proposed non-legislative route to pursuing the Bill's intent. Please find attached a letter addressed to Collette Stevenson MSP as Committee Convenor which details these points.

The report in question is "Putting collective wellbeing and sustainable development into action: An options paper for Scotland" with Jennifer Wallace, which was commissioned by Carnegie UK, Scotland's International Development Alliance, Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland and Oxfam Scotland.

I understand the Committee has finished its evidence sessions, however I am hopeful there still might be opportunity for this letter to be noted in proceedings, and for the Committee to consider this evidence in its final deliberations.

For context, I am Max French, Associate Professor & Convenor of the Public Policy and Management Research Group at Newcastle Business School, Northumbria University. I've contributed evidence on the integration of the National Performance Framework in decision making to previous inquiries conducted by the Finance and Public Administration Committee, and currently sit on the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework Reform Advisory Group.