



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Kate Forbes
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic
Scottish Government

20 June 2025

Dear Deputy First Minister

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

I am writing to you regarding the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill,¹ which was introduced on 27 March 2025, by Sarah Boyack MSP.

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee has been designated as lead committee to consider the Bill at Stage 1.

At our committee meeting on 19 June, we considered our approach to taking evidence on the Bill at Stage 1. I understand that the Scottish Government included in its 2021-22 Programme for Government a proposal for a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill.

The Scottish Government's consultation on the proposed Bill closed in February 2024.

Could you please confirm whether it remains the Scottish Government's intention to introduce a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill and, if not, provide an explanation as to the reasons why the Scottish Government has decided not to do so?

The Committee also considered a timetable for Stage 1 evidence taking, and the Stage 1 deadline proposed by the Member in charge of the Bill of mid-January 2026. We would appreciate the Scottish Government's view on whether that Stage 1 deadline would allow sufficient time for the Bill to complete all three stages prior to the end of the parliamentary session.

¹ [Wellbeing and Sustainable Development \(Scotland\) Bill](#).

I appreciate timetabling of parliamentary legislation is a matter for the Minister for Parliamentary Business. The Minister has been provided with a copy of this letter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Stevenson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee