The Scottish Parliament has power over devolved matters.

Devolved matters include agriculture, education and law and order.

The bill is considered by the most appropriate parliamentary committee and a report is written.

If the bill proceeds, it undergoes detailed line by line scrutiny and amendments are made. The bill is then considered by whole parliament. MSPs vote to decide if it will pass or fail.

When the bill gets Royal Assent it becomes an Act of the Scottish Parliament.
Clear and unambiguous language is important when drafting legislation. And as we all know, language can be misinterpreted in different ways in everyday life.

Accurate punctuation is extremely important to avoid misunderstandings...

Control of Mobile Phones in School Bill

Words and phrases produce different reactions in people. In legislation there is limited room for opinion and interpretation.

“out of control mobile phone use”

Tablets too?

What is “out of control”?

“A device that can make calls and connect to the internet”

Clarity matters.

My client’s tablet can’t make calls unless it’s on wi-fi – it is not a ‘mobile phone’.

Glad I thought of that. Better make it clearer.

The language of legislation will be revised, reviewed and edited many times before it is passed, to avoid misunderstandings and legal challenges.
Scottish Parliament Information Centre provide information to MSPs and the public.

They ensure their articles and blogs are backed up by sources.

MSPs need facts and figures. They need lots of information, statistics and different points of view.

MSPs are making laws, so they need to really understand the issues. They can contact SPICE to find info they need.

SPICE presents facts, not opinions, to avoid any confusion.

SPICE write for many different audiences. They write for MSPs making laws, for the media writing articles, and for the public, trying to find out what’s happening.

Spice Briefings for MSPs can be quite complicated.

However, SPICE don’t make recommendations – it is up to the MSPs to decide what to do with the information.
SPICe work to promote clarity by providing information to the public.

SPICe blogs
- Shorter to read than MSP briefings
- Easier to read
- Focus on most important facts
- Less formal
- Less jargon

Now I get it! Thanks SPICe.

Sometimes, information is easier to read as a picture source.

SPICe provide lots of visual information to assist with understanding.

This is really clear. I want to write my own information this way.

To read blogs and briefings from SPICe, scan the QR code with a phone or tablet.

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