

# Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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Schedule 1—Public authorities

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**THE FOLLOWING ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO PUBLISHED:  
Explanatory Notes (SP Bill 16-EN), a Financial Memorandum (SP Bill 16-FM), a Policy  
Memorandum (SP Bill 16-PM) and statements on legislative competence (SP Bill 16-LC).**

# Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill [AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision about gender representation on boards of Scottish public authorities.

## **1 Gender representation objective**

- 5
- (1) The “gender representation objective” for a public board is that it has 50% of non-executive members who are women.
  - (2) Where a public board has an odd number of non-executive members, the percentage mentioned in subsection (1) applies as if the board had one fewer non-executive member.

## **2 Key definitions**

10 In this Act—

“appointing person” means, in relation to the function of appointing a non-executive member of a public board, a person who has that function,

15 “excluded position”, in relation to a public authority, means a position mentioned in the second column of the table in schedule 1 which corresponds with the public authority mentioned in the first column,

“non-executive member”, in relation to a public authority, means a position on its public board—

- (a) that is not an excluded position,
- (b) that is not held by an employee of the authority,

20 “public authority” means an authority listed, or within a description listed, in the first column of the table in schedule 1,

“public board” means—

- (a) if the public authority is a company, the directors,
  - (b) if the public authority has a statutory board or other equivalent statutory management body, that board or body,
  - (c) in relation to any other public authority, the membership of the authority.
- 25

**3 Duty when appointing non-executive members**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where there is—
- (a) a vacancy in a position of non-executive member of a public board,
  - (b) more than one candidate for the position,
  - (c) at least one candidate who is a woman, and
  - (d) at least one candidate who is not a woman.
- (2) The appointing person must, in making the appointment to fill the vacancy, act in accordance with section 4 with a view to achieving (or making progress towards achieving) the gender representation objective immediately after the appointment takes effect.
- (3) When an appointing person is making more than one appointment—
- (a) both or all of those appointments must be taken into account in identifying the number of non-executive members, and
  - (b) the appointing person must act with a view to achieving (or making progress towards achieving) the gender representation objective immediately after all of those appointments have taken effect.

**4 Consideration of candidates**

- (1) The appointing person must determine whether any particular candidate is best qualified for the appointment.
- (2) If no particular candidate is best qualified for the appointment, the appointing person must identify candidates it considers are equally qualified.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), the appointing person must give preference to a candidate identified under subsection (2) who is a woman if appointing that candidate will result in the board achieving (or making progress towards achieving) the gender representation objective.
- (4) The appointing person—
- (a) must consider whether the appointment of a candidate identified under subsection (2) who is not a woman is justified on the basis of a characteristic or situation particular to that candidate, and
  - (b) if so, may give preference to that candidate.

**5 Encouragement of applications by women**

- (1) An appointing person for a public board must take such steps as it considers appropriate to encourage women to apply to become non-executive members of the public board.
- (2) A public authority to which a public board relates must take such steps as it considers appropriate to encourage women to apply to become non-executive members of the public board.

**6 Duty to take steps towards achieving objective**

- (1) This section applies whenever the gender representation objective is not achieved in relation to a public board.

- (2) An appointing person for the public board must, in addition to anything done under sections 3 to 5, take such other steps as it considers appropriate with a view to achieving the gender representation objective by 31 December 2022.
- (3) The public authority to which the public board relates must, in addition to anything done under section 5(2), take such other steps as it considers appropriate with a view to achieving the gender representation objective by 31 December 2022.

## **7 Reports on operation of Act**

- (1) A public authority specified in regulations under subsection (2) must publish reports on the operation of this Act in accordance with provision made in regulations under subsection (2).
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
- (a) specify public authorities for the purposes of subsection (1),
  - (b) make further provision about reports mentioned in subsection (1).

## **8 Power to modify schedule 1**

The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify schedule 1 so as to add an entry, vary the description of an entry or remove an entry.

## **9 Application of Act to certain public authorities**

Schedule 2 makes provision about the application of this Act in relation to certain public authorities.

## **10 Equality Act 2010**

- (1) Sections 158 and 159 of the Equality Act 2010 (positive action) do not apply to any action taken under this Act.
- (2) Part 5 of the Equality Act 2010 (work) does not prohibit any action taken under this Act.

## **11 Regulations**

- (1) Regulations under sections 7 and 8 may—
- (a) include incidental, supplementary, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (b) make different provision for different purposes.
- (2) Regulations under section 8 may modify this Act.
- (3) Regulations under sections 7 and 8 are subject to the negative procedure.

## **12 Commencement**

- (1) This section and section 13 come into force on the day after Royal Assent.
- (2) The other provisions of this Act come into force on such day as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations appoint.

- (3) Regulations under this section may—
- (a) include transitional, transitory or saving provision,
  - (b) make different provision for different purposes.

**13 Short title**

5 The short title of this Act is the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Act 2018.

SCHEDULE 1  
*(introduced by section 2)*

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Excluded position</i>
5	Accounts Commission for Scotland	
	Architecture and Design Scotland (company number SC267870)	
	Board of Trustees for the National Galleries of Scotland	
10	Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland	
	Board of Trustees of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh	
	Bòrd na Gàidhlig	
15	British Waterways Board	
	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Members elected under article 5(2) of the Cairngorms National Park Designation, Transitional and Consequential Provisions (Scotland) Order 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/1)
20		Members nominated under article 5(4) of that Order
	Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (company number SC001854)	
	Children's Hearings Scotland	
25	A college of further education other than a regional college (within the meanings given to those terms by the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992)	All members other than those appointed under paragraph 3A(2)(a) and (f) of schedule 2 of that Act
30	A regional college (within the meaning given by the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992)	All members other than those appointed under paragraph 3(2)(a) and (f) of schedule 2 of that Act
	Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Service	

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Excluded position</i>
Community Justice Scotland	
Creative Scotland	
5 Crofting Commission	Members elected by virtue of paragraph 7 of schedule 1 of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010
Crown Estate Scotland (Interim Management)	
10 David MacBrayne Limited (company number SC015304)	
Food Standards Scotland	
A Health Board constituted under section 2(1)(a) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978	Councillors appointed under paragraph 2(1)(b) of schedule 1 of that Act
15 Healthcare Improvement Scotland	The member mentioned in paragraph 2(1)(b) of schedule 5A of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 (the person appointed to chair Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland)
20 A higher education institution (within the meaning given by the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016)	All members other than those appointed by the governing body (which has the same meaning as in Part II of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992) (for this purpose a member is not appointed by the governing body if that member is appointed only by virtue of being the winning candidate in an election for membership or by virtue of being nominated for membership by another person)
25	
30 Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (company number SC097647)	
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	
Historic Environment Scotland	
Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland	

	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Excluded position</i>
	Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland	
5	Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority	Members elected under article 5(2) of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Designation, Transitional and Consequential Provisions (Scotland) Order 2002 (S.S.I. 2002/201)  Members nominated under article 5(4) of that Order
10	Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland	
	Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland	
	National Confidential Forum	
	National Library of Scotland	
15	Newbattle Abbey College (company number SC262968)	A director nominated by the University of Aberdeen, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow or the University of St. Andrews  A director who is also a member of the college
20	Quality Meat Scotland	
	Regional Board for Glasgow Colleges	All members other than those appointed under paragraph 3(2)(a) and (f) of schedule 2B of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005
25	A regional Transport Partnership created under section 1(1) of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005	Councillor members (mentioned in section 1(2)(b) of that Act)
	Revenue Scotland	
	Risk Management Authority	
30	Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (company number SC361752)	A director who is also a student of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
	Scottish Advisory Committee on Distinction Awards	All members other than the Chair, the Medical Director and the lay representatives

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Excluded position</i>
5	<p>Scottish Agricultural Wages Board</p> <p>Persons nominated or elected under paragraph 1(a) of schedule 1 of the Agricultural Wages (Scotland) Act 1949 (persons representing employers and workers)</p>
	<p>Scottish Charity Regulator</p> <p>Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration</p>
10	<p>Scottish Commission for Human Rights</p> <p>The member appointed to chair the commission under paragraph 1(1)(a) of the Scottish Commission for Human Rights Act 2006</p>
	<p>Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service</p> <p>The Lord President</p> <p>The Lord Justice Clerk</p> <p>The President of the Scottish Tribunals</p>
15	<p>Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission</p> <p>Scottish Enterprise</p> <p>Scottish Environment Protection Agency</p> <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</p>
20	<p>Scottish Fiscal Commission</p> <p>Scottish Further and Higher Education Funding Council</p> <p>Scottish Futures Trust Limited (company number SC348382)</p>
25	<p>Scottish Housing Regulator</p> <p>Scottish Land Commission</p> <p>Scottish Legal Aid Board</p> <p>Scottish Legal Complaints Commission</p> <p>Scottish Natural Heritage</p>
30	<p>Scottish Police Authority</p>

	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Excluded position</i>
	Scottish Qualifications Authority	
5	Scottish Social Services Council	The member mentioned in regulation 2(3) of the Scottish Social Services Council (Appointments, Procedure and Access to the Register) Regulations 2001 (the person who is the chair or a member of Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland)
10	Scottish Sports Council	
	Scottish Water	
	Skills Development Scotland Co. Limited (company number SC202659)	
15	Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland	The member mentioned in paragraph 2(1)(b) of schedule 11 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 (the person appointed to chair Healthcare Improvement Scotland)
20		The member mentioned in paragraph 2(1)(c) of that schedule (the person appointed as convener of the Scottish Social Services Council)
25	A Special Health Board constituted under section 2(1)(b) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978	Councillors appointed under paragraph 2(1)(b) of schedule 1 of that Act
	Standards Commission for Scotland	
	VisitScotland	
	Water Industry Commission for Scotland	
30	West Highland College UHI (company number SC153921)	A director who is also a student of the college

SCHEDULE 2  
*(introduced by section 9)*

APPLICATION OF ACT TO CERTAIN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

*Judicial Appointments Board for Scotland*

- 5     1     When the Lord President is making an appointment of a judicial member under paragraph 2(a) of schedule 1 of the Judiciary and Courts (Scotland) Act 2008, the Lord President must act with a view to achieving the gender representation objective in relation to the judicial members only.
- 10    2     When the Scottish Ministers are making an appointment of a legal member or a lay member under paragraph 2(b) or (c) of that schedule, they must act with a view to achieving the gender representation objective in relation to the legal members and lay members only (taken together).

*Regional Board for Glasgow Colleges*

- 15    3     When the Scottish Ministers are making an appointment under paragraph 3(2)(a) of schedule 2B of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 (“schedule 2B”) they may, for the purpose of identifying the number of non-executive members, disregard a vacancy in a position mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(f) of schedule 2B.
- 20    4     When the board mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(f) of schedule 2B is making an appointment under that paragraph, the board may, for the purpose of identifying the number of non-executive members, disregard a vacancy in a position mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(a) of schedule 2B.

*Regional colleges*

- 25    5     When the Scottish Ministers are making an appointment under paragraph 3(2)(a) of schedule 2 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 1992 (“schedule 2”) they may, for the purpose of identifying the number of non-executive members, disregard a vacancy in a position mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(f) of schedule 2.
- 30    6     When the board mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(f) of schedule 2 is making an appointment under that paragraph, the board may, for the purpose of identifying the number of non-executive members, disregard a vacancy in a position mentioned in paragraph 3(2)(a) of schedule 2.

*Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission*

- 7     For the purposes of the application of this Act in relation to appointments to the Scottish Criminal Cases Review Commission—
- 35     (a) the Scottish Ministers, in making a recommendation under section 194A(4) of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, are to be treated as the appointing person (instead of Her Majesty), and
- (b) references in this Act to the making of an appointment are to be construed as references to the making of a recommendation under that section.



# **Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill**

[AS INTRODUCED]

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to make provision about gender representation on boards of Scottish public authorities.

Introduced by: Angela Constance  
On: 15 June 2017  
Bill type: Government Bill

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