

Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill

Groupings of Amendments for Stage 3

This document provides procedural information which will assist in preparing for and following proceedings on the above Bill. The information provided is as follows:

- the list of groupings (that is, the order in which amendments will be debated). Any procedural points relevant to each group are noted;
- the text of amendments to be debated on the first day of Stage 3 consideration, set out in the order in which they will be debated. **THIS LIST DOES NOT REPLACE THE MARSHALLED LIST, WHICH SETS OUT THE AMENDMENTS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE DISPOSED OF.**

Groupings of amendments

Group 1: Voting by disabled persons

1, 2, 16, 10

Group 2: Minor and technical

3, 14, 15

Group 3: Electoral Commission: 5-year plan

4, 5, 6, 7, 9

Group 4: Electoral Commission: accounts

8

Group 5: Local electoral wards: reviews by Boundaries Scotland

11, 12

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Amendments in debating order

Group 1: Voting by disabled persons

Graeme Dey

- 1 In section 6, page 3, line 41, after <(10)> insert <—
(i) in the opening words,>

Graeme Dey

- 2 In section 6, page 3, line 41, at end insert—
<(ii) after paragraph (a) insert—
“(aa) the arrangements made under the scheme assisted disabled persons (within the meaning of section 6(2) of the Equality Act 2010) to vote at the elections,”>

Colin Smyth

- 16 After section 6, insert—

<Feasibility study: form of ballot papers

Feasibility study: form of ballot papers

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may, by regulations provide for a feasibility study for indents on ballot papers or any other identification method for voters who are blind or partially-sighted.
- (2) A local authority may submit a proposal to the Scottish Minister to carry out a feasibility study as mentioned in subsection (1) in the local authority’s area.
- (3) On receiving a proposal under subsection (2), the Scottish Ministers may by regulations authorise a local authority to carry out a feasibility study.
- (4) Regulations made under this section may—
 - (a) specify how a local authority is to submit a proposal to carry out a feasibility study to the Scottish Ministers,
 - (b) confer on a local authority the power to carry out a feasibility study,
 - (c) make different provisions for different purposes.
- (5) Before making regulations, the Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider appropriate.
- (6) Within three years of the date on which regulations under this section first come into force, the Scottish Ministers must lay before the Scottish Parliament a report on the result of the feasibility study.
- (7) Regulations under this section are subject to the negative procedure.>

Graeme Dey

- 10 After section 22, insert—

<Voting by disabled persons: devolved Scottish elections

Reports on elections: voting by disabled persons at devolved Scottish elections

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

In section 5 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (reports on elections and referendums), after subsection (2B) insert—

- “(2C) Subsection (2D) applies where a report under this section relates to one of the following elections—
- (a) a Scottish Parliamentary general election,
 - (b) an election held under section 9 of the Scotland Act 1998 (constituency vacancies), or
 - (c) an ordinary election of councillors for local government areas in Scotland.
- (2D) The report must include a description of the steps taken by returning officers to assist disabled persons (within the meaning of section 6(2) of the Equality Act 2010) to vote at the election.
- (2E) In subsection (2D), “returning officer”—
- (a) in the case of a Scottish Parliamentary general election, means an officer who is—
 - (i) appointed by order in accordance with section 12(1) of the Scotland Act 1998, or
 - (ii) appointed by order under section 12(6) of that Act,
 - (b) in the case of an election held under section 9 of that Act, means an officer who is appointed by order in accordance with section 12(1) of that Act,
 - (c) in the case of an ordinary election of councillors for local government areas in Scotland, means an officer who is appointed under section 41(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.”.>

Group 2: Minor and technical

Graeme Dey

- 3 Divide section 6 into two sections, the first (*Electronic voting*) to consist of subsections (1) to (3) and the second (*Evaluation of pilot schemes*) to consist of subsection (4)

Graeme Dey

- 14 In section 31, page 17, line 36, leave out <as follows> and insert <in accordance with subsections (2) to (7)>

Graeme Dey

- 15 In section 31, page 20, line 37, at end insert—

- <() In section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (electoral wards)—
- (a) in subsection (2), for “order”, in the first place where it occurs, substitute “regulations”,
 - (b) in subsection (2A), for “an order” substitute “regulations”.>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Group 3: Electoral Commission: 5-year plan

Graeme Dey

- 4 In section 16, page 11, leave out lines 1 to 7

Graeme Dey

- 5 In section 16, page 11, line 13, after <15(4)> insert <—
(i)>

Graeme Dey

- 6 In section 16, page 11, line 14, at end insert <, and
(ii) if the SPCB made any recommendations for modifications to the plan under sub-paragraph (2), lay before the Scottish Parliament a document describing its reasons for making the recommendations.”.>

Graeme Dey

- 7 In section 16, page 11, leave out lines 15 to 22

Graeme Dey

- 9 Leave out section 20

Group 4: Electoral Commission: accounts

Graeme Dey

- 8 After section 16, insert—
<Accounts and accounting officer
- (1) Schedule 1 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (the Electoral Commission) is amended as follows.
 - (2) After paragraph 18(2) insert—
 - “(3) As soon as is reasonably practicable after the Comptroller and Auditor General has certified the Commission’s accounts and laid a copy of the accounts as so certified before each House of Parliament under sub-paragraph (2), the Commission must—
 - (a) submit a copy of the accounts as so certified to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, and
 - (b) lay a copy of the accounts as so certified before the Scottish Parliament.”.
 - (3) In paragraph 19(4), after “Speaker’s Committee” insert “, the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body”.>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Group 5: Local electoral wards: reviews by Boundaries Scotland

Graeme Dey

11 In section 31, page 18, line 11, at end insert—

- <() Where the report includes a proposal that the number of councillors to be returned in an electoral ward is two, Boundaries Scotland must include in the report an explanation as to why it considers the proposal to be appropriate unless the proposal relates to an electoral ward consisting wholly or partly of one or more inhabited islands (within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018).>

Graeme Dey

12 In section 31, page 20, line 2, at end insert—

- <() Where the report includes a further or supplementary proposal that the number of councillors to be returned in an electoral ward is two, Boundaries Scotland must include in the report an explanation as to why it considers the proposal to be appropriate unless the proposal relates to an electoral ward consisting wholly or partly of one or more inhabited islands (within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018).>

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