Passage of the Bill

The Budget (Scotland) (No 4) Bill [SP Bill 81] was introduced on 19 January 2007. The Stage 1 debate took place on 25 January 2006. The Finance Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 on 6 February 2006 and it was passed by the Parliament on 14 February 2007. The Bill received Royal Assent on 20 March 2007.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The passage of the Bill is the final stage in the annual budget process and gives parliamentary authority for spending in Scotland for financial year 2007-08. The budget process is intended to allow the Parliament’s subject committees the opportunity to comment on the Executive’s spending plans at several points during the year prior to the annual budget being agreed. The expectation is that the subject committees should have an active role in scrutinising and making recommendations on spending priorities.

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill will authorise over £26.3bn of cash expenditure by the Scottish Executive and its associated bodies, other organisations whose core funding is centrally provided (e.g. local authorities and health boards), the Forestry Commissioners, the Food Standards Agency, the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body and Audit Scotland.

For more details of the Scottish Budget process see the summary for the Budget (Scotland) Bill [SP Bill 16].