**Food (Scotland) Bill**

**Bill Number:** SP Bill 48  
**Introduced on:** 13 March 2014  
**Introduced by:** Alex Neil  
**Passed:** 9 December 2014  
**Royal Assent:** 13 January 2015

### Passage of the Bill

The Food (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 10 December 2014. The Health and Sport Committee, as lead committee, began taking Stage 1 oral evidence on the general principles of the Bill on 25 March 2014. The Stage 1 debate took place on 2 October 2014 and the Bill was passed following the Stage 3 parliamentary debate on 9 December 2014.

### Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The Bill sought to create a new body - Food Standards Scotland - to take over and build on the work of the UK-wide Food Standards Agency in Scotland, and to establish new food law provisions. Responsibilities of the new body will include: food safety, food standards, nutrition, food labelling, and meat inspection policy and operational delivery.

### Provisions of the Bill

Part 1 of the Bill sought to create the body “Food Standards Scotland” which, following subsequent secondary legislation will be designated as a non-ministerial office of the Scottish Administration, taking over the functions of the Food Standards Agency in Scotland.

Part 2 seeks to introduce new food law provisions. First, relating to contravention of food information law; second, to allow Scottish Ministers to create (at some point in the future) a mandatory food hygiene information scheme; and third, a wide ranging power allowing Ministers to make regulations related to animal feed stuff and their production.
Part 3 provides for a range of new administrative sanctions for use when offences related to Scotland’s food law are committed. These provisions include fixed penalty notices and compliance notices.

Parliamentary consideration

**Stage 1:** Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill was undertaken by the Health and Sport Committee. The Committee’s evidence during Stage 1 found widespread (though not completely unanimous) support for the provisions contained in the Bill. However, a number of specific points for clarification from the Scottish Government were highlighted. These related to: finances available to Food Standards Scotland and access to and influence over research.

**Stage 2:** The Health and Sport Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 on 11 November 2014. 36 amendments were agreed to without division including amendments on the promotion of best practice in enforcement of food legislation, delegation of functions to staff of Food Standards Scotland, and the meaning of “food” and “animal feeding stuffs”.

**Stage 3:** The Bill was considered at Stage 3 on 9 December 2014. Minor and technical amendments were agreed to. Other amendments were either disagreed to, moved and, with the agreement of the Parliament, withdrawn or not moved.

After debate, the motion was agreed to and the Bill passed.

**Royal Assent:** The Bill received Royal Assent on 13 January 2015.

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