



**OFFICIAL REPORT**  
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

# Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

**Tuesday 10 June 2025**

**Session 6**



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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**DELEGATED POWERS AND LAW REFORM COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2025, Session 6**

**CONVENER**

\*Stuart McMillan (Greenock and Inverclyde) (SNP)

**DEPUTY CONVENER**

\*Bill Kidd (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP)

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

\*Jeremy Balfour (Lothian) (Con)

Katy Clark (West Scotland) (Lab)

\*Roz McCall (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con)

\*attended

**CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE**

Greg Black

**LOCATION**

The Adam Smith Room (CR5)



## Scottish Parliament

### Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

*Tuesday 10 June 2025*

*[The Convener opened the meeting at 09:39]*

### Decision on Taking Business in Private

**The Convener (Stuart McMillan):** Welcome to the 20th meeting in 2025 of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee. I remind everyone to switch off or put to silent their mobile phones and other electronic devices.

The first item of business is a decision on whether to take in private items 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Is the committee content to take those items in private?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## Instrument subject to Affirmative Procedure

09:40

**The Convener:** Under agenda item 2, we are considering one instrument, on which an issue has been raised.

### Scottish Parliament (Constituencies and Regions) Order 2025 [Draft]

**The Convener:** The purpose of the instrument is to give effect to the recommendations in a Boundaries Scotland report on its review of the boundaries of the Scottish Parliament's constituencies and regions.

The committee asked the Scottish Government about an issue arising in the instrument's preamble, which suggests that both the draft order and the report require approval by resolution in the Parliament. The report requires only to be laid, and there is no requirement in the parent act for a motion to approve it.

In its response, the Scottish Government agreed that the report does not require approval and stated its intention to correct the preamble to make the position clear before the draft instrument is submitted to His Majesty in council.

Does the committee wish to draw the instrument to the attention of the Parliament on the general reporting ground because of the error in the preamble?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Does the committee wish to draw its correspondence to the attention of the lead committee, noting that the Scottish Government intends to correct the error in the signing copy of the instrument?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

**The Convener:** Does the committee wish to make it clear that it is not expressing a view on the proposed method of correction?

**Members** *indicated agreement.*

## Instrument subject to Negative Procedure

09:41

**The Convener:** Under agenda item 3, we are considering one instrument, on which a point has been raised.

### Town and Country Planning (Fees for Appeals) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/166)

**The Convener:** The amending instrument is intended to correct errors that the Scottish Government identified in Town and Country Planning (Fees for Appeals) (Scotland) Regulations 2025.

Section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires that a negative instrument must be laid before the Scottish Parliament at least 28 days before it comes into force.

This instrument was laid on 29 May 2025 and it came into force on 8 June 2025, which was less than 28 days later.

Does the committee wish to draw the instrument to the attention of the Parliament under reporting ground (j), which is the failure to comply with the laying requirements?

**Members indicated agreement.**

**The Convener:** In a letter that will be published in the committee's report on the subordinate legislation considered at today's meeting, the Scottish Government explained to the Presiding Officer the reasons for not complying with the laying requirements.

Scottish statutory instrument 2025/124, which this instrument corrects, came into force on 9 June 2025. Therefore, this corrective instrument had to come into force on 8 June 2025 at the latest, to avoid errors in the first instrument having practical effect.

Is the committee satisfied with the reasons that have been given for the failure to comply with the laying requirements?

**Members indicated agreement.**

## Instrument not subject to Parliamentary Procedure

09:43

**The Convener:** Under agenda item 4, we are considering one instrument, on which no points have been raised.

### Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No 1) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/167)

**The Convener:** Is the committee content with the instrument?

**Members indicated agreement.**

09:43

*Meeting continued in private until 10:33.*

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