Official Report
Aithisg Oifigeil

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Comataidh nan Cumhachdan Tiomnaichte agus Ath-leasachadh an Lagha

Tuesday 23 June 2026

Session 7

The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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DELEGATED POWERS AND LAW REFORM COMMITTEE
1st Meeting 2026, Session 7

CONVENER

*Calum Kerr (Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Q Manivannan (Edinburgh and Lothians East) (Green)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Amanda Lindsay (Central Scot and Lothians West) (Reform)
*Colm Merrick (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP)
Paul Sweeney (Glasgow) (Lab)

*attended

LOCATION

The James Clerk Maxwell Room (CR4)

Scottish Parliament

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Tuesday 23 June 2026

[The Convener opened the meeting at 10:30]

Interests

The Convener (Calum Kerr): Welcome to the first meeting of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee in session 7. I am delighted to have been elected as the convener of the committee and I look forward to working collaboratively with you, my committee colleagues, and all the officials in the room today and throughout the parliamentary session.

We have received apologies from Paul Sweeney MSP. I am sure that members will have already done so, but it would be appreciated if you could set your mobile phones to silent.

The first item of business is to invite all members to declare any relevant registrable interests. I will start with my declaration and then I will invite each of you in turn to make your declaration.

I declare an interest in that I am the owner of a furnished holiday-let property in the north-west of Scotland.

Q Manivannan (Edinburgh and Lothians East) (Green): I have no relevant registrable interests to declare.

Colm Merrick (Glasgow Anniesland) (SNP): I do not know whether this is relevant, but I am still serving as a local councillor in East Renfrewshire Council.

Amanda Lindsay (Central Scot and Lothians West) (Reform): I declare an interest in a software consultancy in which I hold shares, albeit one that is being wound up as we speak. I also declare an interest in a short-term letting, as I let out part of my family home to guests.

Deputy Convener

10:32

The Convener: The second item of business is to choose a deputy convener. As I am sure you are all aware, the Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Green Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of this committee. Accordingly, I nominate Q Manivannan as deputy convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Q Manivannan was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Excellent. Congratulations, Q, on your appointment.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:32

The Convener: The next item of business is to decide whether to take items 7 and 8 in private. Is the committee content to take those items in private?

Members *indicated agreement*.

Instrument subject to Approval

10:33

The Convener: Under agenda item 4, we are considering one instrument.

Visitor Levy (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026 [Draft]

The Convener: Is the committee content that no reporting grounds are engaged?

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: Also with regard to this instrument, does the committee wish to welcome that the Scottish Government has taken the opportunity to address points that were raised in January 2026 by the session 6 Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on the Visitor Levy (Local Authority Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2026?

Members *indicated agreement*.

Instrument subject to Annulment

10:34

The Convener: Under agenda item 5, we are considering one instrument, on which an issue has been raised.

Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Order 2026 (SSI 2026/204)

The Convener: This order changes the conditions of exemption for banned breeds of dogs, such as XL bullies. It removes the requirement that the owner has to have third-party insurance in respect of injury or death caused by the dog, as of 1 July 2026. This is because the only United Kingdom provider of such insurance will stop offering it at the end of June. Existing insurance policies must be kept in place until they expire.

The instrument was laid on 11 June and will come into force on 1 July. Under section 28(2) of the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010, instruments subject to the negative procedure must be laid at least 28 days before they come into force. Breaching this rule does not affect the validity of the instrument but does trigger an automatic report by this committee.

Does the committee wish to draw this instrument to the attention of the Parliament under reporting grounds for a failure to lay the instrument in accordance with the laying requirements?

Q Manivannan: No.

The Convener: As we heard in our pre-briefing, there were valid grounds for the situation, so are we content with the Government's explanation and that the instrument is reported?

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: We will explain in our report the reasons why we are content with the Government's explanation.

Instruments not subject to Parliamentary Procedure

10:36

The Convener: Under agenda item 6, we are considering three instruments.

Digital Assets (Scotland) Act 2026 (Commencement) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/197 (C 18))

Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2026 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/198 (C 19))

Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Act 2024 (Commencement No 4, Transitional and Saving Provisions) and the Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2026 (Commencement No 1) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/200 (C 20))

The Convener: Is the committee content that no reporting grounds are engaged?

Members *indicated agreement*.

The Convener: That concludes the public part of the meeting.

10:37

Meeting continued in private until 11:06.

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