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Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Legislative Consent Memorandum on the Farriers (Registration) Bill



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Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Remit: To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.



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Background to the Bill

1. The [Farriers \(Registration\) Bill](#) was introduced in the House of Commons on 29 June 2016. Introduced by Byron Davies MP as a Private Members' Bill, it seeks to make changes to the internal governance, structure and operation of the [Farriers Registration Council](#) (FRC) in order to modernise the regulation of the farriery profession. The FRC was originally set up by the [Farriers \(Registration\) Act 1975](#) which sets out its statutory responsibilities as the regulatory body for the farriery profession in Great Britain.
2. The FRC works across Scotland, England and Wales and has a single constitution. As the purpose of the FRC is to act in the interests of animal welfare, any changes to the law in relation to animal welfare are considered to be a devolved matter. Therefore, amending the constitution of the FRC requires the legislative consent of the Scottish Parliament.

The Legislative Consent Memorandum

3. The [Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Farriers \(Registration\) Bill](#) summarises the background and policy intent of the Bill while providing an explanation as to why the Bill requires the legislative consent of the Scottish Parliament. It also provides information on the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra) consultation on the governance, structure and operation of the FRC and its committees. This was conducted in 2013 and was done in conjunction with the Scottish and Welsh governments.
4. The Memorandum concludes that:

” It is the view of the Scottish Government that it is in the best interests of the Scottish people and good governance that this Bill, which falls within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament, should be considered by the UK Parliament.¹

Committee consideration

5. The Committee was designated as the lead committee in relation to the Legislative Consent Memorandum by the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 8 February 2017. The Committee subsequently considered the Memorandum at its meeting on Tuesday 21 February where no comments were raised by members and they were content with its terms.

6. The Committee recommends that the Parliament approves the legislative consent motion on the Farriers (Registration) Bill.

¹ Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Farriers (Registration) Bill:
<http://www.parliament.scot/LegislativeConsentMemoranda/LCM-S05-9.pdf>

