



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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3rd Report 2020 (Session 5)

**Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments
Committee**
**Comataidh Inbhean, Dòighean-obrach is Cur-an-dreuchd
Poblach**

**The Representation of the People (Data
Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020
[draft]**



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Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

The remit of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee is to consider and report on—

- (a) the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business;
- (ab) a proposal for a Bill relating to the arrangements for financial assistance to non-Government political parties represented in the Parliament;
- (b) whether a member's conduct is in accordance with these Rules and any Code of Conduct for members, matters relating to members interests, and any other matters relating to the conduct of members in carrying out their Parliamentary duties;
- (c) the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct for members; and
- (d) matters relating to public appointments in Scotland;
- (e) matters relating to the regulation of lobbying; and
- (f) matters relating to Scottish general elections falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.



<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/standards-committee.aspx>



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Committee Membership



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Mark Ruskell
Scottish Green Party



Neil Findlay
Scottish Labour



Jamie Halcro Johnston
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Tom Mason
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Gil Paterson
Scottish National Party



Maureen Watt
Scottish National Party

The Representation of the People (Data Matching) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft]

1. The Representation of the People (Data Matching) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] were laid before the Scottish Parliament on 14 January 2020 and referred to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (SPPA Committee).
2. The draft Regulations were made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 53(1) and (3) and 201(3) and paragraphs 1A and 13(1ZB) of schedule 2 of the Representation of the People Act 1983(a).
3. Regulation 3 of these Regulations amends regulation 20 of the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) (Amendment) Regulations 2019. The purpose of these Regulations is to enable Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to test the process of matching the names and addresses of those registered in the register of local government electors in Scotland with other data such as that held by the UK Government Department for Work and Pensions.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Consideration

4. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee considered the draft Regulations on 28 January 2020 and indicated in its [6th Report, 2020](#) that it did not need to draw the Parliament's attention to the instrument.

SPPA Committee Consideration

5. At the SPPA Committee's third meeting on 30 January 2020, it took evidence on the Representation of the People (Data Matching) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] from—

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Ewan McCaig, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Maria McCann, Head of Elections Team, and Kenneth Pentland, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Government.

6. Motion S5M-20563 was lodged by Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, and supported by Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.
7. Following the evidence session, Graeme Dey moved S5M-20563—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.
8. The motion was agreed to without division.
9. The evidence taken and the debate can be found in the [Official Report](#) for the SPPA Committee meeting of 30 January 2020.

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

Annex: Extract from minutes

3rd Meeting 2020 (Session 5), Thursday 30 January 2020

Subordinate legislation: The Committee took evidence on the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] and the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] from—

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Ewan McCaig, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Maria McCann, Head of Elections Team, and Kenneth Pentland, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Government.

Subordinate legislation: Graeme Dey moved—S5M-20563—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

