

**Criminal Justice Committee
Wednesday 25 June 2025
20th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)**

Consideration of Member's Bills – Session with Members-in-charge

Note by the Clerk

Introduction

Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill

1. At its meeting on 25 June 2025, the Criminal Justice Committee will take evidence from Pam Gosal MSP, the Member-in-charge of the Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill. This Member's Bill was introduced on 7 May 2025 and aims to strengthen prevention, information-sharing, and rehabilitation approaches in response to domestic abuse in Scotland.
2. The session is part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and follows its formal referral by the Parliamentary Bureau.
3. The session will also involve officials from the Scottish Parliament's Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU), who supported the development of the Bill.

Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

4. Following the evidence session with Pam Gosal MSP, the Committee will take evidence from Ash Regan MSP, the Member-in-charge of the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill. This Member's Bill was introduced on 20 May 2025.
5. The session is part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and follows its formal referral by the Parliamentary Bureau.
6. The Bill creates a new offence of paying for sexual acts. The Bill also repeals the existing offence under section 46 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 of soliciting and importuning by prostitutes. People who have been convicted of this offence in the past would have their convictions quashed. Additionally, Scottish Ministers will need to ensure that a person who is, or has been, in prostitution is provided with help and support.
7. Ash Regan MSP will be accompanied at the session by members of her office who have been involved in the development of the Bill.

Aim of the Session

8. This session provides Members with an opportunity to explore areas such as:
- The policy intent and rationale behind the Bills' provisions
 - The evidence base underpinning the proposed measures
 - Any consultation or engagement that shaped the Bill
 - Practical and legal considerations around implementation

Evidence

9. The Committee will take evidence from:
- Pam Gosal MSP, Member-in-charge of the Bill of the Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill
 - Officials from the Non-Government Bills Unit, Scottish Parliament
 - Ash Regan MSP, Member-in-charge of the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill
 - Officials from the office of Ash Regan MSP
10. All accompanying documents, including the Explanatory Notes, Policy Memorandum, Financial Memorandum, and Delegated Powers Memorandum, are available on the Bill's page on the Parliament website.

Actions

11. The Committee is invited to take evidence from—
- Pam Gosal MSP on the Prevention of Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Bill, followed by
 - Ash Regan MSP on the Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) Bill

Clerks to the Committee
June 2025