

Social Justice and Social Security Committee
Thursday 9 October 2025
26th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

Note by the Clerk

Background

1. The Social Justice and Social Security Committee will hold its first Stage 1 evidence session on the [Wellbeing and Sustainable Development \(Scotland\) Bill](#).
2. The Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill is a Member's Bill, which was introduced on 27 March 2025 by Sarah Boyack MSP.

Overview of the Bill

3. The Bill creates a new public duty, which requires all public bodies to have due regard for the need to promote wellbeing and sustainable development in the exercise of their functions. It also establishes statutory definitions of the terms “wellbeing” and “sustainable development” for the purposes of the Bill.
4. The Bill also establishes a Future Generations Commissioner for Scotland (“the Commissioner”), whose general function will be to promote the wellbeing of future generations by promoting sustainable development by public bodies in all aspects of their decisions, policies and actions. The Commissioner would be appointed by and financially accountable to the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) and be independent from government.

Witnesses

5. The Committee will hear from Professor Colin Reid, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Dundee, and Professor Calvin Jones, economist.
6. A written submission from Professor Reid can be accessed [here](#).
7. Professor Jones' views on the impact of the [Wellbeing of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#) can be accessed at this [link](#).

Call for views

8. 48 individuals and stakeholders responded to the Social Justice and Social Security Committee's call for views, which ran until 24 August 2025.
9. 41 responded via Citizen Space. Those responses can be viewed here: [Published responses](#).
- 10.7 sent submissions over email, and these are available on the webpage for the Bill.
11. Questions for today's session have been informed by the submission and information provided by the witnesses, as well as from other relevant responses to the call for views.

SPICe Briefings

12. The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has prepared an analysis of the call for views, which is available here: [Wellbeing and Sustainable Development \(Scotland\) Bill – Call for Views Summary](#).

**Clerks to the Committee
October 2025**