

Social Justice and Social Security Committee
Thursday 6 November 2025
28th 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 second 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:
 - Jenny Munro, Policy Practice and Research Officer, The Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland
 - Duncan Thorp, Policy and Public Affairs Manager, Social Enterprise Scotland
 - Ellie Twist, Co-Convenor, United Kingdom Environmental Law Association
 - Emma Hunter, Policy Officer, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

6. The following written submissions were provided by the witnesses in response to the Committee's call for views:

- [The Royal Town Planning Institute Scotland](#)
- [Social Enterprise Scotland](#)
- [United Kingdom Environmental Law Association](#)
- [Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland](#)

Call for views

7. 48 individuals and stakeholders responded to the Social Justice and Social Security Committee's call for views, which ran until 24 August 2025.
8. 41 responded via Citizen Space. Those responses can be viewed here: [Published responses](#).
9. 7 sent submissions over email, and these are available on the [webpage for the Bill](#).
10. Questions for today's evidence session have been informed by the submissions provided by witnesses, as well as from other relevant responses to the call for views.

SPICe Briefings

11. 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
November 2025