

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 16 December 2025
35th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill - Note by the Clerk

Background

1. The Scottish Government introduced the Non-surgical Procedures and Functions of Medical Reviewers (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament on 8 October 2025. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee was designated as lead committee for Stage 1 consideration of the Bill on 28 October 2025.
2. Under the Parliament's Standing Orders Rule 9.6.3, it is for the lead committee to report to the Parliament on the general principles of the Bill. In doing so, it must take account of views submitted to it by any other committee. The lead committee is also required to report on the Bill's Financial Memorandum, taking account of any views submitted to it by the Finance and Public Administration Committee.
3. The Bill and its accompanying documents are available on the [Scottish Parliament website](#).
4. The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a [briefing on the Bill](#).

Purpose of the Bill

5. Part 1 of the Bill will make it illegal to provide certain types of procedures to people under the age of 18.
6. It will only be legal to provide these services from properties that meet certain requirements.
7. The procedures covered by the Bill are ones that:
 - pierce or penetrate the skin,
 - are not provided as part of the health service,
 - are not provided by a health care provider for the purposes of treating illness, and
 - are not regulated under a type of licensing scheme set out in the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
8. These types of procedure might be done for cosmetic or for wellbeing purposes. They could include a dermal filler injection or a stronger chemical peel.

9. A full list of the procedures covered is contained in schedule 1 of the Bill. The Bill includes a power for this list to be changed in the future.
10. The Bill also allows the Scottish Government to introduce more restrictions and requirements for these types of procedure in the future. This could include:
 - saying who can provide them
 - what sort of training or qualifications are needed to provide them
 - how the rules around them are enforced.
11. The Policy Memorandum accompanying the Bill separately commits the Scottish Government, by the end of the current Parliamentary session, to bring forward secondary legislation to establish a licensing scheme for procedures which are “lower risk and do not require the intervention of a healthcare professional and are therefore not included in the Bill”.
12. Part 2 of the Bill changes the Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011. If passed, it will:
 - change when someone can request a review of a medical certificate of cause of death, and when a request for a review can be rejected;
 - remove the need for authorisation of applications for cremation when someone dies outside of Scotland, but in another part of the UK, and is going to be cremated in Scotland.

Scrutiny

13. The Committee issued two calls for views on the Bill which were open for submissions between Friday 10 October and Friday 14 November 2025:
 - a structured call for views for organisations on Citizen Space
 - a digital engagement platform to hear the views and experiences of individuals on Your Priorities.
14. The Committee received 142 responses on Citizen Space and the [responses were published](#) on the Committee’s webpage.
15. The Committee received 11 responses on Your Priorities and these [responses have also been published](#).
16. SPICe has produced an [analysis of the responses received](#).
17. The Committee agreed the following programme of oral evidence at its meeting on 7 October 2025:

Week 1

- Private briefing from the Scottish Government Bill teams
- Consumers and individual practitioners
- Industry representatives

Week 2

- Healthcare representative bodies
- Regulators, enforcers and inspectors

Week 3

- Medical Reviewers and death certification
- Minister for Public Health and Women's Health

Today's meeting

18. During today's meeting, the Committee will conclude taking oral evidence on the Bill, firstly hearing from a panel of witnesses with a focus on Part 2 of the Bill, comprising witnesses from the following organisations (where available, a link has been provided to their written submission to the Committee's call for views):

- Health Improvement Scotland Certification Review Service (DCRS) – [written submission](#)
- Association of Registrars of Scotland
- East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership – [written submission](#)

19. After this, the Committee will take evidence on the Bill from the Minister for Public Health and Women's Health and supporting officials.

Clerks to the Committee
December 2025