

Education, Children and Young People Committee
Wednesday 14 January 2026
2nd Meeting, 2026 (Session 6)

Note by the Clerk on The Education (Scotland) Act 2025 (Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2025 (SSI 2025/385)

Overview

1. At this meeting, the Committee will consider the following Scottish Statutory Instrument (SSI), which is subject to the negative procedure. The Committee is invited to consider the instrument and decide what, if any, recommendations to make.
2. More information about the instrument is summarised below:

Title of instrument: [The Education \(Scotland\) Act 2025 \(Consequential Provisions\) Regulations 2025 \(SSI 2025/385\)](#)

Laid under: The [Equality Act 2010](#) and the [Education \(Scotland\) Act 2025](#)

Laid on: 5 December 2025

Procedure: Negative

Deadline for committee consideration: 26 January 2026

Deadline for Chamber consideration: 29 January 2026

Procedure

3. Under the negative procedure, an instrument is laid after it is made and is subject to annulment by resolution of the Parliament for a period of 40 days beginning on the day it is laid.
4. Once laid, the instrument is referred to:
 - the Delegated Powers and Law Reform (DPLR) Committee, for scrutiny on various technical grounds, and
 - a lead committee, whose remit includes the subject-matter of the instrument, for scrutiny on policy grounds.
5. Any MSP may propose, by motion, that the lead committee recommend annulment of the instrument. If such a motion is lodged, it must be debated at a meeting of the Committee, and the Committee must then report to the Parliament (by the advisory deadline referred to above).

6. If there is no motion recommending annulment, the lead committee is not required to report on the instrument.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee consideration

7. The DPLR Committee considered the instrument at its meeting on 16 December 2025 and reported on it in [Subordinate Legislation considered by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on 16 December 2025.](#)

Purpose of the instrument

8. The Education (Scotland) Act 2025 establishes Qualifications Scotland as Scotland's public body responsible for delivering, awarding and accrediting qualifications, replacing the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). A range of regulations and orders make reference to the SQA for specific reasons. The instrument removes those references and where required updates them with references to Qualifications Scotland.
9. The Policy Note accompanying the instrument is included in Annexe A. It includes a summary of consultation undertaken on the instrument, impact assessments carried out, and the anticipated financial effects.

Committee consideration

10. So far, no motion recommending annulment has been lodged.
11. Members are invited to consider the instrument and decide whether there are any points they wish to raise. If there are, options include:
 - seeking further information from the Scottish Government (and/or other stakeholders) through correspondence, and/or
 - inviting the Minister (and/or other stakeholders) to attend the next meeting to give evidence on the instrument.

It would then be for the Committee, at the next meeting, to consider the additional information gathered and decide whether to make recommendations in relation to the instrument.

12. If members have no points to raise, the Committee should note the instrument (that is, agree that it has no recommendations to make).
13. However, should a motion recommending annulment be lodged later in the 40-day period, it may be necessary for the Committee to consider the instrument again.

Clerks to the Committee
January 2026

Annexe A: Scottish Government Policy Note

POLICY NOTE

THE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2025 (CONSEQUENTIAL PROVISIONS)

REGULATIONS 2025

SSI 2025/385

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 96(10)(c) of the Equality Act 2010 and section 65(1) of the Education (Scotland) Act 2025. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Summary Box

Consequential amendments to support the implementation of the Education (Scotland) Act 2025. It makes changes to a range of Scottish Regulations and Orders to update references from the Scottish Qualifications Authority to Qualifications Scotland to ensure Qualifications Scotland takes on the SQA's full range of responsibilities, duties and powers, and so that the subordinate legislation has continued full effect.

Policy Objectives

The Education (Scotland) Act 2025 establishes Qualifications Scotland as Scotland's public body responsible for delivering, awarding and accrediting qualifications, replacing the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). A range of regulations and orders make reference to the SQA for specific reasons. The instrument removes those references and where required updates them with references to Qualifications Scotland.

The Scottish Social Services Council (Consultation on Codes of Practice) Order 2001

Before making any changes to their Codes of Practice, the Scottish Social Services Council (Consultation on Codes of Practice) Order 2001 requires the Scottish Social Services Council to consult with every education and training establishment that is approved by the SQA as being suitable to present social service workers for SQA qualifications in Care and Higher National Certificates in Social Care. As Qualifications Scotland will be assuming SQA's functions and its portfolio of qualifications, these references to SQA qualifications need to be updated in order for the 2001 Order to have full effect.

The Council Tax (Discounts) (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Order 2003

The Council Tax (Discounts) (Scotland) Consolidation and Amendment Order 2003 specifies courses and qualifications delivered by the SQA that make any individual undertaking them eligible for council tax discount. As Qualifications Scotland will assume SQA's functions and responsibilities, and take over their entire qualifications

portfolio, the references to SQA qualifications need to be updated to Qualifications Scotland if the 2003 Order is to have full effect.

The Protection of Charities Assets (Exemption) (Scotland) Order 2006

The Protection of Charities Assets (Exemption) (Scotland) Order 2006 lists the SQA as a body that is exempt from being required to continue applying the assets it held while on the Scottish Charity Register for charitable purposes, after it was removed from the Scottish Register in 2005. This SSI removes SQA from that list, as it will cease to operate once Qualifications Scotland becomes operational.

The Licensing (Training of Staff) (Scotland) Regulations 2007

The Licensing (Training of Staff) (Scotland) Regulations 2007 requires that in order for an individual's training to become an alcohol license holder to be valid they must have received training from an individual who at the time either already holds a personal license, or has a relevant qualification accredited by the SQA. As Qualifications Scotland will be assuming the SQA's Accreditation this reference will be updated to ensure these 2007 Regulations work as intended.

The Equality Act 2010 (Qualifications Body Regulator and Relevant Qualifications) (Scotland) Regulations 2010

Under the Equality Act 2010 (Qualifications Body Regulator and Relevant Qualifications) (Scotland) Regulations 2010, the SQA is currently assigned as a qualifications body regulator in relation to the Equality 2010 Act. This gives SQA the power to make judgements to determine whether reasonable adjustments for undertaking relevant qualifications should not or cannot be made. It in effect gives them powers to determine which National Qualifications in Scotland, as the relevant qualifications, can be exempt from the Equality Act 2010 duty for all qualifications bodies to make reasonable adjustments. As Qualifications Scotland will take over the responsibility for delivering National Qualifications, this SSI updates the 2010 Regulations to ensure Qualifications Scotland replaces the SQA as the qualifications body regulator.

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 prescribes that individuals must possess relevant qualifications in relation to these regulations. The 2012 Regulations set out that a relevant qualification certificate includes a certificate granted by a body that is recognised and regulated by the SQA. In effect, this means only SQA accredited qualifications meet this criteria. As Qualifications Scotland will assume the SQA's accreditation functions, oversight for qualifications previously/currently accredited by SQA, and its portfolio of qualifications, this SSI updates the SQA references to Qualifications Scotland.

The St Mary's Music School (Aided Places) (Scotland) Regulations 2015

The St Mary's Music School (Aided Places) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 requires that any examinations conducted by the SQA that include compulsory field study, in relation to music qualifications, St Mary's Music School must remit the charges. As

Qualifications Scotland will take on the full portfolio of SQA's qualification and examinations it will become responsible for qualifying qualifications in relation to these regulations. The SSI therefore replaces SQA references with Qualifications Scotland.

The Road Works (Qualifications of Operatives and Supervisors) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

The SQA is currently the registration body for keeping a register of certificates of competence and certificates of recognition in relation to qualifications under the Road Works (Qualifications of Operatives and Supervisors) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. The SQA is also listed as an approved body for the purposes of issuing certificates of competence. As Qualifications Scotland will assume all functions of the SQA, and its portfolio of responsibilities, this SSI replaces all references to the SQA (and its enabling legislation) with references to Qualifications Scotland and the Education (Scotland) Act 2025.

The Student Support (Scotland) Regulations 2022

The Student Support (Scotland) Regulations 2022 prescribe certain courses provided by the SQA that are eligible for student loans and tuition fees, or just student loans. They also prescribe for that purpose certain courses of a higher standard than certain SQA courses.

They also provide that courses of a standard not higher than certain SQA qualifications are eligible for maintenance allowances. As Qualifications Scotland will assume all of SQA's awarding functions, and its qualifications, courses and awards portfolio, it is essential that references are updated to Qualifications Scotland's courses to ensure individuals receive maintenance allowances, student loans and/or tuition fees where applicable.

Transitional arrangements

Transitional cases are expected to arise under some of the instruments amended by this SSI – for example, in relation to undertaking qualifications for alcohol licenses; applications and granting of council tax discounts; or the application to and granting of any relevant student support. This is in the instance that any of these were in progress or done in relation to the SQA before it dissolved and Qualifications Scotland took over its responsibilities. In these cases one option would have been to refer to both the SQA and Qualifications Scotland. This would have seen references to the SQA remain in legislation and it would increasingly become obsolete over the years. This was not considered necessary because the transitional provisions in the Education (Scotland) Act 2025, section 61, will apply. This ensures that any relevant thing done or in the process of being done, by or in relation to the SQA, at the point of transition and before it is dissolved has effect as if it had been done, or may continue to be done, by Qualifications Scotland. This approach ensures a simple approach to transition and ensures less outdated references to the SQA in the legislative landscape.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 Compatibility

The Scottish Ministers have made the following statement regarding children's rights.

In accordance with section 23(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 (the Act), the Scottish Ministers certify that, in their view, the Education (Scotland) Act 2025 (Consequential Provisions) Regulations 2025 is compatible with the UNCRC requirements as defined by section 1(2) of the Act.

Statement required by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has made the following statement under paragraph 16(2) of Part 1 of schedule 8 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view there are good reasons for the amendment made by this instrument to the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (“the 2012 Regulations”), made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. The amendment is consequential on the Education (Scotland) Act 2025 (“the 2025 Act”) and will ensure that the definition of “qualification certificate” in the 2012 Regulations continues to work as intended following replacement of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (“SQA”) with Qualifications Scotland under the 2025 Act.”

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills has made the following statement under paragraph 16(3) of Part 1 of schedule 8 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“The 2012 Regulations, make provision in Scotland for the administration and enforcement of Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing and certain national rules. The 2012 Regulations are assimilated law. The 2012 Regulations provide that a condition for obtaining a certificate of competence for certain operations is that a qualification certificate must be submitted to the competent authority. The definition of “qualification certificate” includes a certificate granted by a body recognised and regulated by the SQA. This instrument replaces the reference to the SQA with Qualifications Scotland, in consequence of the 2025 Act.”

EU Alignment Consideration

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 are relevant to the Scottish Government’s policy to maintain alignment with the EU. However, this instrument is not directly relevant to that policy, as the amendments it makes to those Regulations are purely consequential on the Education (Scotland) Act 2025 and do not make substantive changes to the law.

Consultation

While there was no specific stakeholder consultation on this instrument, consultation on the Education (Scotland) Act 2025 sought views on the creation of Qualifications Scotland to replace the SQA. The response to consultation showed support for the creation of this replacement body. The creation of Qualifications Scotland was agreed to by Scottish Parliament when they passed the Education (Scotland) Act 2025. This SSI supports the outcomes of that public consultation by updating legislation in consequence of the Education (Scotland) Act 2025.

Impact Assessments

In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) has been

completed. A positive impact has been identified, as it supports the full implementation of the Education (Scotland) Act and the positive effects the Act will bring for children's rights and wellbeing as identified in the Act's CRWIA, alongside ensuring any positive effects of the Regulations and Orders continue to be realised.

No further impact assessments were developed for this SSI, however a range of other impact assessments for the 2025 Act were produced and can be found here:¹

Financial Effects

A Financial Memorandum for the Education (Scotland) Act 2025 was completed and is available². A supplementary Financial Memorandum was provided after Stage 2 and is available³.

The Cabinet Secretary confirms that no Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) is necessary as the instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business. A full BRIA was completed for the Education (Scotland) Act 2025 and is available⁴.

Scottish Government
Education Reform Directorate

December 2025

¹ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-scotland-bill-child-rights-wellbeing-impact-assessment-crwia/>
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-scotland-bill-data-protection-impact-assessment/>
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-bill-equality-impact-assessment/>
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-scotland-bill-fairer-scotland-duty-summary/>
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-bill-island-communities-impact-assessment/>
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-scotland-bill-strategic-environment-assessment-sea-pre-screening-notification/>

² <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/education-scotland-bill/introduced/financial-memorandum.pdf>

³ <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/education-scotland-bill/stage-2/spbill49afms062025accessible.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gov.scot/publications/education-bill-business-regulatory-impact-assessment/>