

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee
Tuesday 15 September 2026
4th Meeting, 2025 (Session 7)

Instrument Responses

The Welfare of Equidae Code of Practice (Revocation) (Scotland) Notice 2026

On Thursday 3 September 2026, the Committee asked the Scottish Government:

If approved by the Parliament, the notice will revoke the 2009 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Equidae. Could an explanation please be provided as to why this is being done, to give the Committee an understanding of the context?

On Tuesday 8 September 2026, the Scottish Government responded:

The Scottish Government published statutory guidance regarding the welfare of equids under section 38 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 on 25 August 2026. The guidance is titled “Welfare of Equids: Guidance” and is available on the Scottish Government’s website (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/welfare-equids-guidance/documents/>). The guidance contains up-to-date advice regarding the welfare of equids and has been developed in partnership with the equine sector.

The scope of the recently published guidance includes the same subject matter as the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Equidae (ISBN: 978-0-7559-8002-4), which is also available on the Scottish Government’s website (<https://www.gov.scot/publications/code-practice-welfare-equidae/documents/>) (“the Code”). The Code was laid under section 37(6)(a) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”) and approved by the Scottish Parliament on 25 March 2009. In common with the recently published guidance, the content of the Code is advisory in nature and includes advice regarding compliance with duties under Part 2 of the 2006 Act. The Scottish Government considers that revocation of the Code by the procedure specified in section 37(7) of the 2006 Act is necessary to avoid confusion on the part of those who are responsible for equids and to minimise the risk of future reference to the Code, the content of which is considered to be outdated.

The Minister for Agriculture, Marine and the Islands separately wrote to the Convenor of the Rural Affairs Committee by [letter](#) dated 3 September 2026 to explain the context of the recently published guidance.

The Employment Tribunals Extension of Jurisdiction (Amendment) (Scotland) (SSI 2026/Draft)

On Thursday 3 September 2026, the Committee asked the Scottish Government:

The Policy Note states that UK Ministers have written to Scottish Ministers to invite them to exercise the power with the agreement of the Secretary of State to ensure parity with the time limits for contract of employment claims by employees in England and Wales. It goes on to say that Scottish Government officials discussed these proposals with UKG and highlighted that, due to the Scottish Parliamentary election and summer recess periods, there is insufficient time for this change to be implemented by 1 October 2026 in Scotland to align with the timetable for England and Wales.

1. Please could you confirm the date on which the Scottish Government received the letter from the UK Government inviting it to exercise the power?

On Tuesday 8 September 2026, the Scottish Government responded:

The letter was received on 15 December 2025.