



## National Library of Scotland Bill

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Bill Number: SP Bill 2  
Introduced on: 26 October 2011  
Introduced by: National Library of Scotland Bill  
Passed: 17 May 2012  
Royal Assent: 21 June 2012

[2012 asp 3](#)

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### Passage of the Bill

The [National Library of Scotland Bill](#) (SP Bill 2) was introduced by Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, on 26 October 2011.

The Education and Culture Committee was designated as the lead committee on [Bill](#) and started its Stage 1 consideration at its meeting on 15 November 2011. The Bill was also considered by the Subordinate Legislation and Finance Committees.

The Committee put out a [call for evidence](#), with a closing date for written submissions of Friday 20 January 2012.

The Committee took oral evidence from the Scottish Government, Faculty of Advocates, Scottish Library and Information Council and National Library of Scotland (NLS) on 7 February 2012. Fiona Hyslop gave evidence to the Committee on 21 February 2012.

The Committee discussed the Bill in private on 28 February and 6 March 2012 and published its Stage 1 report on 8 March 2012. The [Stage 1 debate](#) took place on 15 March 2012.

The [Bill was passed](#) on 16 May 2013 following its [Stage 3 debate](#).

## **Purpose and objectives of the Bill**

Following a consultation on the future governance of the National Library of Scotland (NLS) the Scottish Government prepared a Bill which it believed would improve the governance of the Library, providing it with a modern replacement for its existing Board of Trustees, and giving the Library statutory functions which would reflect its present role and which, the Government stated, should help it develop its role in a constantly changing future.

## **Provisions of the Bill**

The NLS was formally established by the National Library of Scotland Act 1925 c. 73. The Bill was intended to repeal and replace the 1925 Act thus updating the legislation on the functions and governance of the National Library of Scotland.

The Bill proposed renaming the Board of Trustees as the National Library of Scotland and reducing the number of Board members from 32 down to between 6 and 13 members. This would bring the Board into line

The Bill also proposed amending the statutory functions of the Library to better reflect its changing role in the digital age and the library community. The Bill also proposed that Scottish Ministers would have a power of direction over the NLS.

## **Parliamentary consideration**

Concerns were raised in written and oral evidence over the number of Board members and over the power of direction which Ministers could exercise.

The Scottish Government responded to some of the concerns and introduced amendments at Stage 2 which put the number of Board members as between 8 and 13.

The Government also introduced a number of technical amendments