



Scottish Fiscal Commission Bill

Bill Number:	SP Bill 78
Introduced on:	28 September 2015
Introduced by:	John Swinney
Passed:	10 March 2016
Royal Assent:	14 April 2016

Passage of the Bill

The Scottish Fiscal Commission Bill [SP Bill 78] was introduced on 28 September 2015. The Stage 1 debate took place on 14 January 2016, the Bill was considered at Stage 2 on 10 February 2016 and the Bill was passed by the Parliament on 10 March 2016.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The Scottish Fiscal Commission Bill establishes the Scottish Fiscal Commission and provides for its functions. There was a significant change in the functions of the Commission from the Bill as introduced and the Bill as passed. This was due to the functions of the Commission being a factor in the negotiations between the Scottish and UK Governments over the [Fiscal Framework](#) governing the implementation of new Scotland Act 2016 powers.

When introduced, the Bill proposed that the Scottish Fiscal Commission be tasked with scrutinising, assessing the reasonableness of, and reporting on the Scottish Government's devolved tax forecasts and the economic determinants underpinning Scottish Government non-domestic rate income (NDRI) forecasts. By the time the Bill was passed, the Scottish Fiscal Commission was tasked with producing the official devolved tax forecasts.

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill as passed provides for the Scottish Fiscal Commission to prepare independent forecasts of demand-driven welfare spending, revenues from the fully devolved taxes and income tax, and onshore GDP in Scotland. The legislation also contains regulation making powers to enable the Commission to prepare forecasts of other factors once the Scottish Parliament has the relevant competence. The timing for commencement of the new responsibilities is still to be announced.