



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Community Justice (Scotland) Bill

The Scottish Parliament's Finance Committee invites organisations and individuals to submit written evidence setting out their views on the financial implications of the Community Justice (Scotland) Bill.

The Bill

The [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Bill](#) (the Bill) was introduced in the Scottish Parliament by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice on 4 June 2015.

The estimated financial implications of the Bill are set out in its accompanying Financial Memorandum (FM). A copy of the FM can be found at page 17 of the [Explanatory Notes](#).

The Financial Memorandum

The FM states that the purpose of the Bill is to—

“replace the existing model for community justice services which is based on eight regional community justice authorities (CJAs), with a new model. The new model delivers a community solution to the achievement of improved outcomes for community justice; to the problem of re-offending; and to the task of offender management.”

In addition to providing for national and local community justice strategies, a new national body, Community Justice Scotland (CJS), will be established “to provide leadership, enhanced opportunities for innovation, learning and development and assurance on the delivery of improved outcomes.”

A table setting out the total estimated costs and savings of the Bill is provided on page 19 of the FM.

How to submit evidence

The Justice Committee is lead committee and has issued [a separate call for evidence](#) in relation to the Bill's policy provisions.

The Finance Committee invites you to respond to the attached questions by **Friday 14 August 2015**. All responses should be sent electronically (in MS Word - no confirmatory hard copy required) to finance.committee@scottish.parliament.uk. Written responses will be handled in accordance with the Parliament's [policy for handling written evidence received in response to calls for evidence](#).

What happens next?

All written evidence received will be considered and you may be invited to provide further information to the Committee in oral evidence. As a result of the sometimes tight deadlines for Parliamentary scrutiny of a Bill it is possible that any invitation to give evidence might be extended at relatively short notice.

Should you have any queries in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee clerking team on Tel: 0131 348 5451

Finance committee questionnaire

This questionnaire is being sent to those organisations that have an interest in, or that may be affected by, the financial implications of the [Community Justice \(Scotland\) Bill](#). Estimates of the Bill's financial implications are set out in its accompanying Financial Memorandum (FM), which can be found at page 17 of the [Explanatory Notes](#).

In addition to the questions below, please add any other comments you may have which would assist the Finance Committee's scrutiny of the FM.

Consultation

1. Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
2. If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
3. Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

Costs

4. If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
5. Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
6. If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
7. Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

Wider Issues

8. Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
9. Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?