



Scottish Register of Tartans Bill

Bill Number:	SP Bill 08
Introduced on:	25 March 2008
Introduced by:	Jamie McGrigor MSP
Passed:	9 October 2008
Royal Assent:	13 November 2008

Passage of the Bill

The Scottish Register of Tartans Bill was [introduced](#) in the Scottish Parliament on 25 March 2008. Stage 1 commenced on 15 April 2008 when the Finance Committee took evidence on the Bill. The lead committee on the Bill, the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee, commenced taking evidence at Stage 1 on 16 April 2008. The Stage 1 (general principles) debate took place on 19 June 2008. The Bill passed Stage 2 consideration at a meeting of the lead committee on 12 September 2008. The Stage 3 debate was held on 9 October 2008 at which the Bill was passed. The [Scottish Register of Tartans Act](#) received Royal Assent on 13 November 2008.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The purpose of the Bill was to establish a register of tartans. The register is intended to provide a repository of both existing records of current and historical tartan designs and as a means for new tartans to be registered.

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill proposed to:

- Create a publicly held and maintained Register of tartans
- Set up a system for registering new tartan designs
- Establish a statutory definition of tartan for the purposes of the operation of the Register
- Confer on the Keeper of the Records of Scotland the functions of keeping and maintaining the proposed Register and of overseeing the registration of new tartan designs, and
- Provide Scottish Ministers with a power to specify, by order, fees for services provided in relation to the Register such as the registration of new tartans and provision of copy material from the Register.

Parliamentary consideration

The Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee supported the general principles of the Bill. The Committee highlighted a number of areas where it considered that the Bill could be improved including:

- That the definition of tartan in the Bill (as introduced) be widened to allow for the requirement that the design should be capable of being woven
- That the member in charge of the Bill consider further whether a requirement to include a swatch of cloth with an application to register a tartan would help promote the textile industry in Scotland or whether this would act as a deterrent to applicants

At Stage 2 of the Bill, three amendments were moved. One amendment, tabled by Jamie McGrigor MSP, was passed. This amendment modified the definition of tartan to require that designs be capable of being woven.

At Stage 3, one amendment to the Bill was lodged and this amendment was passed by Parliament. The amendment allowed the Keeper of the Register of Tartans, when sending a certificate of registration to an applicant - or indeed at any later date - who had not previously provided a swatch of cloth pertaining to the proposed tartan, to request the applicant to submit such a sample.

Stephen Herbert
Senior Research Specialist
SPICe
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