



Historic Environment Scotland Bill

Bill Number: SP Bill 47
Introduced on: 3 March 2014
Introduced by: Fiona Hyslop
Passed: 4 November 2014
Royal Assent: 9 December 2014

[2014 asp 19](#)

Passage of the Bill

The [Historic Environment Scotland Bill](#) (SP Bill 47) was introduced by Fiona Hyslop, the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, on 3 March 2014.

The Education and Culture Committee was designated as the lead committee for the Bill on 12 March 2014. The Committee issued a general call for written evidence on. The Committee held oral evidence sessions on 18 March, 6 and 20 May 2014 and discussed its draft Stage 1 report in private on 10 June 2014.

The Committee published its [Stage 1 report](#) on 12 June 2014.

The [Stage 1 debate](#) by the Parliament was held on 19 June 2014.

The Bill was considered at [Stage 2](#) by the Committee on 19 August 2014 and the [Bill as amended at Stage 2](#) was published on 20 August 2014.

The [Stage 3 debate](#) took place, and the Bill was passed, on 4 November 2014.

Royal Assent was received on 9 December 2014.

Purpose and objectives of the Bill

The main purpose of the Bill was to create a new lead body for Scotland's historic environment: Historic Environment Scotland. The new body would be a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) with the combined functions of Historic Scotland (a Scottish Government Agency) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) (which had been established by a Royal Warrant).

Provisions of the Bill

The Bill set out the functions carried out by the existing bodies which would pass to the new body and proposed changes to those powers and functions. It also set out the functions carried out by the Historic Scotland which would be retained by Scottish Ministers. Some of the functions were put on a statutory basis for the first time, in particular the functions of RCHAMS.

Parliamentary consideration

The Bill was introduced following a number of consultations carried out by the Scottish Government on the historic environment in Scotland and on the future of RCHAMS.

The Bill was subject to a number of Government amendments at Stage 2. For example, the scheduled monument processes were aligned with the existing procedures for listed building and the planning systems.

The Bill was subject to minor changes at Stage 3 and was passed on 4 November 2014.