



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## **EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE (EHRiC)**

### **Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill**

The Scottish Parliament's [Equalities and Human Rights Committee \[EHRiC\]](#) is seeking views on the Gender Representation on Public Boards (Scotland) Bill.

#### **Remit**

The Bill was introduced in the Scottish Parliament on 15 June 2017. The Bill seeks to increase the representation of women on Scotland's public boards. It sets a 'gender representation objective' for public boards to have 50% of non-executive members who are women and provides a procedure to achieve this.

A copy of the Bill and accompanying documents can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105197.aspx>

You can follow the Committee's scrutiny of the bill here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/105434.aspx>

#### **Key issues**

According to the Bill's Policy Memorandum, the wider policy context to the Bill is persistent under-representation of women across decision making structures. The most recent census in 2011 showed women made up 51.5% of Scotland's population. The Bill seeks to address this under-representation in respect of non-executive members of public boards.

The key issues are set out below. Responses should address all or any of the following points in turn—

- the impact, if any, on people applying for an appointment as a non-executive member of a public board;
- the impact, if any, for those public authorities responsible for encouraging and recruiting women to public boards as non-executive members;
- the Bill requires public boards to report on the operation of the Act, although Scottish Ministers can regulate how this should happen; what should any reporting requirements cover and why;

- whether there should be penalties for non-compliance with the Bill and what these should be and why;
- Please tell us about any other comments you feel are relevant to the Bill.

The Committee intends to take evidence in September and October 2017 and report to Parliament thereafter.

### How to engage with us?

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR PROVIDING YOUR VIEWS IS 6.00 PM ON THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017.**

[Please see our policy on how we treat the information you send us](#)

### You can send us your views by—

Emailing us at: [equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot](mailto:equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot)

You can write to us at: **Equalities and Human Rights Committee  
Room T3.40  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP**

You can find us on Twitter: [@SP\\_EHRiC](https://twitter.com/SP_EHRiC)

You can find us on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/scottishparliament>  
[inc. possible video from Reporters]

You can ring us: **0131 348 5223 or 0131 348 6040**

You can Text/SMS us: **07786 209 888**

If you would like to receive this document in Braille, or British Sign Language, please contact us and let us know

We welcome calls using the Text Relay service or in BSL through [contactscotland-bsl.org/](http://contactscotland-bsl.org/)

You can ask questions online through live chat: [www.parliament.scot/live-chat](http://www.parliament.scot/live-chat)

