



Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Bill Kidd MSP
Convener, Standards, Procedures and
Public Appointments Committee

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Dear Bill,

I am very pleased to be able to let you know that the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee has [today published its review](#) of the Presiding Officer's determination to identify a Scottish Law Commission (SLC) Bill as defined in Rule 9.17A of Standing Orders.

As you may know, this work has stemmed from the Committee's review of the Presiding Officer's determination for designating a Bill as an SLC Bill which may be referred to it for scrutiny. The determination, made in 2012, was intended to capture the nature and scope of Bills which might be suitable to be referred to the DPLR Committee as lead committee at Stage 1. The overall aim then was to improve the implementation rate of Scottish Law Commission reports. That aim still remains today.

While the determination has enabled four SLC Bills to be considered by the Committee to date, the purpose of the Committee's review was to consider whether the criteria need to be refined in light of experience. The Committee, with the help of a working group made up of officials from the Scottish Law Commission, Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament, analysed each of the criteria. Reflecting on the use of the criteria over the past eight years, the Committee agreed to recommend that the determination should be updated. Full details can be found in the report.

The Committee believes that its proposal will help enable an increase in the implementation rate of Scottish Law Commission reports yet still ensure that only Bills that suit the legal and technical expertise of the Committee are designated as SLC Bills. Those that involve more significant policy development are still expected to be referred to the appropriate subject committee.

As the determination is in the Presiding Officer's name, I have also written to him today to highlight the report. The Committee appreciates that should he wish to give further consideration to the Committee's work, he will likely ask the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee to scrutinise the Committee's findings ahead of considering any potential changes to the determination to take effect in Session 6.

I appreciate your Committee will likely have a very busy schedule between now and the end of the session but if you were able to give this potential change to the Presiding Officer's determination any consideration, it would be very much appreciated. Also, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any additional questions relating to the report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue highlight effect.

Bill Bowman MSP
Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee