



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Via email

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3 October 2023

Dear Alister,

Scotland Act 1998 orders

The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee in the Scottish Parliament took evidence from the Scottish Government's Minister for Parliamentary Business at its meeting on 26 September 2023.

At that meeting, the Committee asked the Minister about the Scottish Government's historic commitment to bring forward an amendment at the earliest opportunity in relation to the *Scotland Act 1998 (Specification of Functions and Transfer of Property etc.) Order 2019 (SSI 2019/183)*. In response, the Committee heard that the Scottish Government is "reliant on the UK Government to help us to identify an appropriate Scotland Act 1988 [sic] order vehicle. We have not managed to do that yet. However, we are continuing to discuss that."¹

This follows on from a written update from the Minister to the Committee on 2 March 2023², which stated that "the Scottish Government and UK Government need to identify a suitable instrument that the amendment can be included in and discussions about this are on-going."

The Committee would be grateful if you could advise what the delay is in identifying an appropriate Scotland Act order, and what could be done to speed up the process of meeting this commitment?

¹ <https://www.parliament.scot/api/sitecore/CustomMedia/OfficialReport?meetingId=15460>

² [Minister for Parliamentary Business.dot](#)



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The Committee is also writing in similar terms to the Minister for Parliamentary Business on this issue.

We request a response to this letter by 26 October 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart McMillan MSP
Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee