

# Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

23rd Meeting, 2023 (Session 6), Wednesday, 20 September

## Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill

### Introduction

1. The [Welfare of Dogs \(Scotland\) Bill](#) was introduced on 20 June 2023 and the RAI Committee has been designated lead committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill. The Stage 1 deadline has yet to be agreed by Parliament.

### The Bill

2. The policy memorandum states the aim of the Bill is to improve the health and wellbeing of dogs throughout their lives, by establishing a more responsible and informed approach to acquiring and owning a dog; and by making provision for regulating the sale or transfer of puppies from unlicensed litters.
3. The Bill consists of 14 sections arranged in three parts. Part 1 would require the Scottish Ministers to make a code of practice to set out good practice in the buying, selling and giving away of puppies and dogs of any age. The code would also require a certificate to be signed after a dog has been sold/transferred to confirm the code of practice has been followed. Part 2 would give the Scottish Ministers the power to make regulations to set up a register of unlicensed litters. Part 3 consists of general provisions.
4. [More information on the Bill is provided in the SPICe bill briefing.](#)

### Written evidence

5. The Committee issued a six-week call for views over summer recess from 30 June until 11 August. The call for views included a questionnaire for the general public and a more detailed survey for stakeholder organisations. The Committee received 95 responses to the questionnaire and 23 responses to the survey.
6. [A complete list of the survey responses is available on the Committee's website.](#) In addition, [a summary of the survey responses has been produced by SPICe and is available on the Committee's website.](#)
7. [A summary of the responses to the questionnaire has been produced by PACT and is available on the Committee's website.](#)

## Oral evidence

8. The agreed timetable for consideration of the Bill is provided below –

<b>20 Sept</b>	Roundtable evidence session with stakeholder organisations
<b>25 Oct</b>	Evidence session Minister and Scottish Government officials
	Evidence session with the Member responsible for the Bill (Christine Grahame MSP) and officials from the NGBU

**Rural Affairs and Islands Committee clerks  
September 2023**