

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 24 September 2024
25th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6)

National Care Service (Scotland) Bill – scrutiny of proposed Scottish Government amendments

Note by the Clerk

Background

1. The Scottish Government introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2022.
2. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee published its [Stage 1 report](#) on the general principles of the Bill on 22 February 2024. On 29 February 2024, the Parliament voted to approve the general principles of the Bill at Stage 1.
3. During its Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee received notification of the Scottish Government's intention to propose amendments to the Bill at Stage 2, to reflect a consensus agreement it had reached with COSLA that the proposed National Care Service should be governed by a revised model based on shared legal accountability between Scottish Ministers and local government..
4. The Committee's Stage 1 report requested that the Scottish Government provide the draft text of its Stage 2 amendments in advance of formal Stage 2 proceedings to enable the Committee to take further oral and written evidence prior to those proceedings.
5. On 24 June 2024, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport [wrote to the Committee](#), supplying the following package of documents from the Scottish Government:
 - [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill - draft Stage 2 amendments | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
6. The Committee issued a written [call for views](#) on the Scottish Government's proposed Stage 2 amendments on 1 July 2024. Following a request from stakeholders, the deadline for responding to the call for views was extended from Friday 30 August to Friday 20 September 2024. [Responses](#) to the call for views are available on the Scottish Parliament website, in those cases where consent has been given to publish the response.
7. The Committee intends to take oral evidence on the Bill from selected stakeholders at its meetings on 24 September and 1 and 8 October. The Committee will not produce a report following these evidence sessions, but the

Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) will produce a summary of written and oral evidence ahead of formal Stage 2 proceedings.

Today's meeting

8. During today's meeting, the Committee will firstly take evidence from representatives of the following trade unions and professional bodies:
 - GMB Scotland
 - UNISON
 - Allied Health Professions Federation Scotland
 - Royal College of Nursing Scotland

9. The Committee will then take evidence from witnesses comprising the following representatives of the social work profession and stakeholders involved in the implementation of self-directed support:
 - Scottish Association of Social Work
 - National Self-Directed Support (SDS) Collaboration
 - Social Work Scotland

10. Most of the organisations giving evidence at today's meeting are listed on the Scottish Government website as participants in the Scottish Government's [Expert Legislative Advisory Group \(ELAG\)](#) on the Bill.

Clerks to the Committee
19 September 2024