

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
Tuesday, 4 March 2025
7th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

National Care Service (Scotland) Bill - Note by the Clerk

1. During this meeting, the Committee will continue Stage 2 proceedings for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill (“the Bill”).
2. The Scottish Government introduced the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament on 20 June 2022.
3. Links to the [Bill and accompanying documents](#), as introduced, can be found below:
 - [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill](#)
 - [Explanatory Notes](#)
 - [Policy Memorandum](#)
 - [Financial Memorandum](#)
 - [Delegated Powers Memorandum](#)
 - [Statements on Legislative Competence](#)
4. On 30 June 2022, the Parliament agreed to designate the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee as lead committee for scrutiny of the Bill at Stage 1 and to designate the Education, Children and Young People Committee and the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee as secondary committees.
5. On 8 July 2022, the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee issued a call for written views on the Bill. This closed on 2 September 2022 and there were [219 published responses](#).
6. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee took oral evidence on the Bill at its meetings on the following dates:
 - [29th meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 25 October 2022](#)
 - [30th meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 1 November 2022](#)
 - [31st meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 8 November 2022](#)
 - [32nd meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 15 November 2022](#)
 - [33rd meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 22 November 2022](#)
 - [35th meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 29 November 2022](#)
 - [36th meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 5 December 2022](#)
 - [37th meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 13 December 2022](#)
 - [38th meeting, 2022 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 20 December 2022](#)
 - [29th meeting, 2023 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 3 October 2023](#)
 - [30th meeting, 2023 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 24 October 2023](#)
 - [31st meeting, 2023 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 31 October 2023](#)

7. The Committee published its [Stage 1 report](#) on the Bill on 22 February 2024.
8. The [Stage 1 debate](#) took place on 29 February 2024 to consider and decide on the general principles of the Bill. Parliament agreed the general principles of the Bill and the Bill ended Stage 1 on 29 February 2024.

Stage 2

9. At Stage 2, MSPs can propose changes to a Bill – these are called “amendments”. Any MSP can suggest amendments. The amendments are debated and decided on at a meeting of a committee (usually the same committee that was the lead committee at Stage 1). Only the committee members can vote on amendments at this stage.
10. If any amendments are agreed to at Stage 2, a new (amended) version of the Bill is published. This is the version considered at Stage 3.

Stage 2: Further consideration

11. On 24 June 2024, the Committee received the following package of documents from the Scottish Government, detailing draft Stage 2 amendments:
 - [National Care Service \(Scotland\) Bill: draft Stage 2 amendments](#)
12. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee issued a call for written views on these draft amendments which was open from 1 July to 20 September 2024. There were [148 published responses to the call for written views](#).
13. The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee subsequently took oral evidence on these draft amendments at its meetings on the following dates:
 - [25th meeting, 2024 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 24 September 2024](#)
 - [26th meeting, 2024 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 1 October 2024](#)
 - [27th meeting, 2024 \(Session 6\) Tuesday 8 October 2024](#)
14. The Committee was originally scheduled to commence Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill on 26 November 2024. However, on 13 November 2024, [the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport wrote to the Committee](#) indicating the Scottish Government’s intention to seek to agree a revised timetable for Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill in early 2025.

Ministerial statement: 23 January 2025

15. In a [ministerial statement](#) to the Scottish Parliament on 23 January 2025, the Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport announced the Scottish Government’s intention to lodge amendments at Stage 2 to remove Part 1 from the Bill and proceed with Parts 2 and 3 only. The Minister lodged amendments 1-39 to this effect on the same day. She also [wrote to the Health, Social Care and](#)

[Sport Committee](#), outlining the Scottish Government's proposed revised approach to the Bill.

Meeting of 25 February

16. At its last meeting, the Committee commenced Stage 2 proceedings on the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The Committee ended consideration of the Bill for the day, amendment 130 having been disposed of, following the order set out in the Marshalled List, posted on 20 February 2025.
17. Details of those amendments disposed of during Day 1 of Stage 2 proceedings are available in the [minutes of the meeting](#).
18. As the Committee did not conclude Stage 2 of the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill at this meeting, the amendment deadline re-opened on the basis that new amendments could be lodged to sections of the Bill that had not already been voted on. In this instance this meant from section 38 onwards.
19. The deadline for amendments has now passed. Two previous amendments were withdrawn and six new amendments lodged, these can be viewed in the [Daily list of amendments for 26 February 2025](#).

Today's meeting

20. At today's meeting, the Committee will continue formal Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill. [The updated Marshalled List and Groupings for Stage 2 will be published here before the meeting](#).
21. The Committee will recommence Stage 2 proceedings with consideration of amendments to section 38 of the Bill.

**Clerks to the Committee
February 2025**