



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

Jamie Hepburn MSP
Minister for Parliamentary Business
Via email

8 October 2024

Dear Jamie

Thank you for giving evidence to the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee on Tuesday, 1 October.

You can now view the Official Report from the meeting here: [DPLR Committee meeting: Tuesday, 1 October – Official Report](#)

Following the session, the Committee agreed to follow-up with you on a couple of areas. Firstly, in relation to the drafting of SSIs, you provided Members with details of the steps taken by the Scottish Government to ensure a high quality of drafting is achieved. To help further its understanding on the process, **the Committee would find it helpful to have sight of a breakdown of the full process (perhaps in the form of a chronological table), of the drafting of SSIs, and how they are quality assured before being laid in Parliament.**

Finally, in relation to the historic commitment on the Budget (Scotland) Act 2023 Amendment Regulations 2023 (to address, in the next amending instrument, the accidental reference in the Act to Growth Accelerator programmes in the plural rather than singular as a result of regulation 3(2)(c)(iv)), you told the Committee that:

“The 2023 Act has now been superseded by the Budget (Scotland) Act 2024, so we do not intend to deal with the issue that was identified in relation to that legislation. Nevertheless, I concede that the issue with the drafting error remains. We are due to publish next week the Budget (Scotland) Act 2024 Amendment Regulations 2024, which will be the equivalent SSI for the current financial year and will resolve the issue of the pluralisation of the word “programme”.”

It appears that the 2024 Regulations may resolve the position in the 2024 Act going forward but will not correct the error introduced by the 2023 Regulations into the 2023 Act which was the subject of the commitment. The 2023 Act concerned the budget for financial year 2023/2024, which is, of course, in the past. **Can the Scottish Government clarify its position in relation to the commitment: does the Scottish Government consider that the commitment has lapsed as the error introduced by the 2023 Regulations into the 2023 Act can no longer usefully be corrected?**

Contact: Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP.

Email: dplr.committee@parliament.scot.

We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

The Committee would welcome a response to the above by **Thursday, 24 October 2024**.

Yours sincerely

Stuart McMillan MSP
Convener