



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Tell us what you think about the Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill



Easy read survey

Tell us what you think before
11.59pm on
Friday 17 May 2024

May

17

Who we are



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

We are the **Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee**.



A **committee** is a small group of people who are **Members of the Scottish Parliament**, also called **MSPs**.



The Scottish people decide who is an MSP by voting for them in elections.



The Scottish Parliament makes **laws** in Scotland.



Laws are rules that tell people what they can or cannot do.



They protect people and make sure everyone is treated in a good and fair way.



The Scottish Parliament also checks what the **Scottish Government** is doing.



© The Scottish Government

The **Scottish Government** decides how to run the country.



The Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament are separate organisations.

About the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee



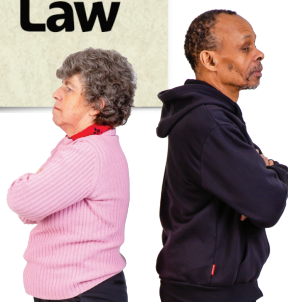
Our committee meets to talk about **equalities, human rights** and **civil justice issues** in Scotland.



Equalities are when everyone is treated fairly and has the same chance to enjoy a great life.



Human rights are basic rights and freedoms every person in the world should have for their whole life.



Civil means anything to do with ordinary people.

Justice means people are treated fairly by the law.

Civil justice issues are problems between people and organisations about things like money, housing or family.

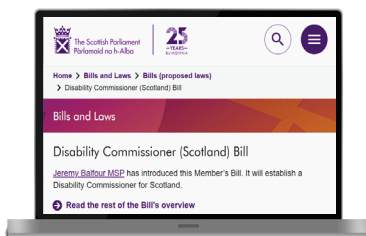
What this booklet is about



This booklet is about a new **bill**. A **bill** is a document that could become a law.

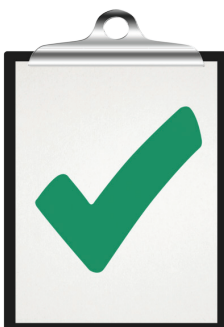


The Bill is called the **Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill**.



Go to our website to find out more about the Bill

www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/disability-commissioner-scotland-bill



The Bill will become part of the law in Scotland if the MSPs agree with it.

What the Bill is about



The Bill says there should be a **Disability Commissioner for Scotland**.



A **commissioner** is a person who is officially chosen to do a special piece of work.



The Disability Commissioner for Scotland will speak up for disabled people and do work to protect their **rights**.



Rights are freedoms people should have that are protected by laws.



The Disability Commissioner for Scotland will be **independent**.



© The Scottish Government

Independent means they will not be part of the Scottish Government.



The Scottish Government will not be able to tell the Disability Commissioner for Scotland what to do.



In this booklet we call the Disability Commissioner for Scotland, the **Commissioner** for short.

What the Commissioner will do



The Bill says the Commissioner will

- **advocate** for disabled people in Scotland

Advocate means speak up for someone or something.

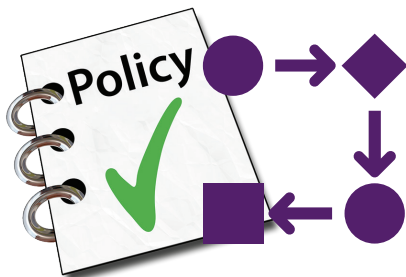


- **review** laws, **policies** and **practice** about the rights of disabled people

Review means look at something to see how good or bad it is.

Policies are guidelines about the best way to do something.

Practice means how something is done.



- support **service providers** for disabled people to follow **best practice**

Service providers are people or organisations that are paid to give services, like health or care services.

Best practice means the best way to do something.





The Bill says the Commissioner will

- do **research** about the rights of disabled people

Research is work done to find out new information about a subject.



- **investigate** service providers to find out how they include the rights of disabled people

The Commissioner will only do this for **devolved matters**

Investigate means look at something closely and find out the facts about it.

Devolved matters are things the Scottish Parliament can make laws about, like health or housing.



The Bill says the Commissioner should

- get disabled people and disability organisations involved in the work they do

- use **inclusive communication**

Inclusive communication means making sure as many people as possible can contact the Commissioner and get information.



What disability means in the Bill



The Bill will follow what is written about disability in a law called the **Equality Act 2010**.



The **Equality Act 2010** says a disability is a **substantial** and **long-term** illness or problem that affects your body or your brain.



Substantial means an illness or problem that has a big effect on normal day-to-day activities.



Long-term means an illness or problem that lasts for 12 months or more.



The Bill says the Commissioner must

- follow the ideas in an agreement called the **UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People**

The **UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People** is a human rights agreement between lots of countries that says disabled people have the same rights as everyone else.

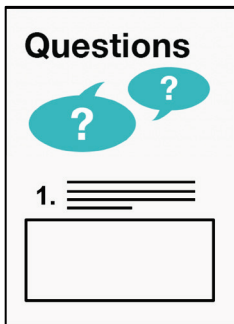
- follow best practice about **equal opportunities**

Equal opportunities are when every person has the same chances in life for things like work or education.

Tell us what you think



We want you to tell us what you think about the Bill.



We have written some questions for you to answer. This is called a **survey**.



The questions are on **pages 15 to 23** of this booklet. You do not have to answer all of the questions.



Thank you for helping us. What you tell us is important. It will help the MSPs make the Bill better and decide if it should become a law.

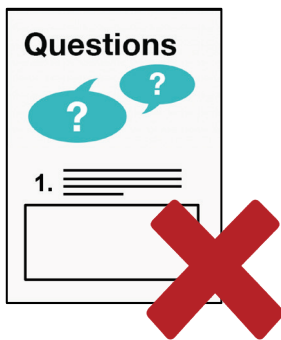
About the survey



When you fill in the survey, do not give information about someone else that could tell other people who they are.



This means information like their name, address or where they work.



We will not use parts of your answers to the survey if

- you give information about someone else
- you use **offensive** language.



Offensive means bad language that might upset people.

How to fill in the survey



To fill in the survey, write your answer in the box under each question.



When you have filled in the survey, post it to this address

**Equalities, Human Rights and
Civil Justice Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP**



The questions start on the next page.

The survey

What we want you to tell us

Question 1

The Bill says there should be a Disability Commissioner for Scotland.

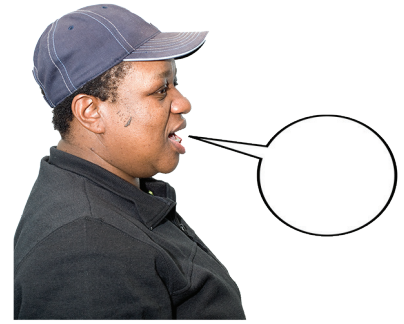
What do you think about this?



Question 2

Do you know about other commissioners or groups that speak up for disabled people and do work to protect their rights?

If you do, tell us what you know about them.



Question 3

The Bill will follow what is written about disability in a law called the Equality Act 2010.

What do you think about this?



Question 4

The Bill says the Commissioner should

- follow the ideas in an agreement called the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People
- follow best practice about equal opportunities.

What do you think about this?



Question 5

The Bill says the Commissioner will

- review laws, policies and practice about the rights of disabled people
- support service providers for disabled people to follow best practice
- do research about the rights of disabled people.

What do you think about this?



Question 6

The Bill says the Commissioner will investigate service providers to find out how they include the rights of disabled people. The Commissioner will only do this for devolved matters.

What do you think about this?



Question 7

The Bill says the Commissioner should use inclusive communication.

What types of inclusive communication do you think the Commissioner should use?



Question 8

The Bill says the Commissioner should get disabled people and disability organisations involved in the work they do.

What do you think about this?



Question 9

Is there anything else you want to tell us about the Bill?



What we do with your information



Your information means anything you tell us that lets other people know who you are, like your name or email address.



If you fill in this survey, we will put your name and your answers to the questions on a website called **Citizen Space**.



You can ask us not to do this.

Please choose 1 box to tell us what you want us to do.



- I want my name **and** my answers to be put on Citizen Space.
- I want my answers to be put on Citizen Space **but not** my name.
- I **do not** want my name **or** my answers to be put on Citizen Space.

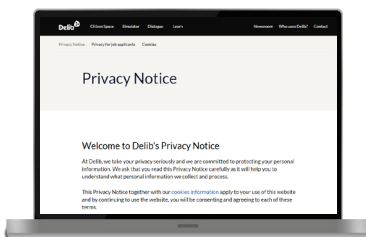


A **Privacy Notice** is a document that tells you what an organisation does with your information.



Go to this website to read a summary of our privacy notice in Easy Read

https://archive2021.parliament.scot/Privacy-Notice/Submitting_Your_Views_to_A_Committee_Easy_Read.pdf



Go to this website to read the privacy notice for Citizen Space
www.delib.net/legal/privacy_notice

Contact us



If you have any questions about this booklet,

- send an email to this address **info@parliament.scot**
- or call this telephone number **0800 092 7500**



If you want information in other languages or in British Sign Language (BSL), please ask us.