



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 7 May 2020
SP Paper 726
4th Report (Session 5)

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

**Comataidh Atharrachadh Clìomaid is Ath-leasachaidh
Fearann**

Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 [draft]



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Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.



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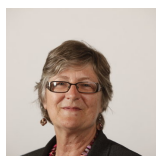
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Background and parliamentary procedure

1. The draft SSI was [laid on 16 March 2020](#) and referred to the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee with a reporting deadline of 10 May 2020.
2. The affirmative parliamentary procedure is set out in Chapter 10 of the Parliament's [Standing Orders](#). Instruments subject to the affirmative procedure cannot come into force unless they are approved by the Parliament.
3. The above Instrument was made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 20 to 32, 53, and 58(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and all other powers enabling them to do so.

Purpose of the instrument

4. This Instrument amends the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 in order to include the offences created by The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020. In doing so, it confers powers on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to enable it to enforce the requirements of the Regulations.
5. SEPA has a suite of enforcement measures under the [Environmental Regulation \(Enforcement Measures\) \(Scotland\) Order 2015](#), including the imposition of both fixed and variable monetary penalties and the power to accept enforcement and other undertakings. These enforcement measures are designed to offer SEPA a proportionate set of tools for dealing with specified offences and it has been considered appropriate to extend these measures so as to apply in respect of compliance monitoring and enforcement activity for the deposit return scheme.
6. This Order, therefore, amends the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 so as to include the offences under the Regulations.
7. The Regulations also provide for wide-ranging criminal penalties (on summary conviction a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum of £10,000, or on conviction on indictment an unlimited fine).
8. A full copy of the Scottish Government Policy Note is included in **Annexe A**.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

9. The DPLRC considered the instrument on [24 March 2020](#). The DPLRC had no comment to make on the draft regulations.

Consideration by the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

10. At its meeting on the [29 April 2020](#), the Committee took evidence on the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 [draft] from—
 - Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform;
 - Don McGillivray, Deputy Director, Environmental Quality and Circular Economy Division;
 - Emily Freeman, Solicitor, Scottish Government.
11. Following the evidence session, the Cabinet Secretary moved motion S5M-21536—

That the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee recommends that the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 [draft] be approved.
12. The motion was agreed to by division: For 5, Against 0, Abstentions 2.
13. The evidence taken and debate held at that meeting on this instrument can be found in the [Official Report](#).
14. The Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee recommends that the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 [draft] be approved.

Annexe A

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT POLICY NOTE

The Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 SSI 20XX/XXX

The above Instrument was made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 20 to 32, 53, and 58(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 and all other powers enabling them to do so. The Instrument is subject to affirmative procedure.

Purpose of the instrument.

This Instrument amends the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 in order to include the offences created by The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020. In doing so, it confers powers on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to enable it to enforce the requirements of the Regulations.

Policy Objectives

The policy objectives of The Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) are discussed in the Accompanying Statement and Policy Note for that Instrument. The Regulations provide for the establishment of a deposit return scheme for single-use drinks containers and create a series of offences in relation to the operation of that scheme.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) will be responsible for regulating the scheme. SEPA has a suite of enforcement measures under the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015, including the imposition of both fixed and variable monetary penalties and the power to accept enforcement and other undertakings. These enforcement measures are designed to offer SEPA a proportionate set of tools for dealing with specified offences and it has been considered appropriate to extend these measures so as to apply in respect of compliance monitoring and enforcement activity for the deposit return scheme.

This Order, therefore, amends the Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015 so as to include the offences under the Regulations.

The Regulations also provide for wide-ranging criminal penalties (on summary conviction a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum of £10,000, or on conviction on indictment an unlimited fine).

Consultation

As the responsible Regulator, SEPA was involved in the development of the Order, with particular regard to which penalties should be applicable to the range of offences.

While no specific public consultation has been undertaken on this Order, the Regulations to which it relates were the subject of a 91 day period during which representations could be made. A number of those who offered their views noted the need for a robust

enforcement framework to be established in respect of the deposit return scheme. This aspect of the scheme's operation was also highlighted by the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee in their report on the Regulations.

The design of the deposit return scheme was also the subject of an extensive public consultation. Participants in that exercise signalled widespread endorsement of the importance of effective regulation and governance of the scheme, with the majority suggesting an existing body such as SEPA or local authority trading standards be tasked with the role.

Impact Assessments

No specific impact assessments have been undertaken for this Order. A range of impact assessments have, however, been undertaken for the Deposit and Return Scheme for Scotland Regulations 2020.

Financial Effects

A Final Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment was published to coincide with the laying of the Regulations to establish the scheme alongside an Addendum to the Scottish Government's "Deposit Return Scheme for Scotland: Full Business Case (FBC) Stage 1".

The Addendum estimates costs of £965,000 per annum associated with SEPA's compliance role in relation to the scheme.

Scottish Government

Environment and Forestry Directorate

16 March 2020

