



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 5 February 2020  
SP Paper 671  
4th Report 2020 (Session 5)

## **Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee**

**Comataidh Inbhean, Dòighean-obrach is Cur-an-dreuchd  
Poblach**

# **The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft]**



**Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.**

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# Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

The remit of the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee is to consider and report on—

- (a) the practice and procedures of the Parliament in relation to its business;
- (ab) a proposal for a Bill relating to the arrangements for financial assistance to non-Government political parties represented in the Parliament;
- (b) whether a member's conduct is in accordance with these Rules and any Code of Conduct for members, matters relating to members interests, and any other matters relating to the conduct of members in carrying out their Parliamentary duties;
- (c) the adoption, amendment and application of any Code of Conduct for members; and
- (d) matters relating to public appointments in Scotland;
- (e) matters relating to the regulation of lobbying; and
- (f) matters relating to Scottish general elections falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.



<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/standards-committee.aspx>



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# Committee Membership



**Convener**  
**Bill Kidd**  
Scottish National Party



**Deputy Convener**  
**Mark Ruskell**  
Scottish Green Party



**Neil Findlay**  
Scottish Labour



**Jamie Halcro Johnston**  
Scottish Conservative  
and Unionist Party



**Tom Mason**  
Scottish Conservative  
and Unionist Party



**Gil Paterson**  
Scottish National Party



**Maureen Watt**  
Scottish National Party

# **The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft]**

1. The Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 14 January 2020 and referred to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (SPPA Committee).
2. The draft Order was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 7 (1) and (2), 11(3) and (4) of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013(a).
3. The draft Order proposes amendments to the Representation of the People Act 1983 to enable changes to be made to the Representation of the People (Scotland) Regulations 2001 in order to reform the annual canvass.
4. The draft Order makes the following changes to the 1983 Act—
  - Article 3 amends section 9A(2) in relation to the steps that a registration officer must take for the purposes of complying with his duty to maintain the register of local government electors.
  - Article 4 amends section 9D of that Act by giving a further example of a function that may be conferred on the Electoral Commission by regulations and by adding to the list of examples for which a registration officer may make house to house inquiries for the purpose of the canvass.
  - Article 5 amends paragraph 3C of schedule 2 to allow Scottish Ministers to make regulations authorising or requiring a registration officer conducting a canvass for the purposes of a register of local government electors in Scotland.

# Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Consideration

5. The Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee considered the draft Order on 28 January 2020 and indicated in its [6<sup>th</sup> Report, 2020](#) that it did not need to draw the Parliament's attention to the instrument.

## SPPA Committee Consideration

6. At the SPPA Committee's third meeting on 30 January 2020, it took evidence on the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] from—

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Ewan McCaig, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Maria McCann, Head of Elections Team, and Kenneth Pentland, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Government.

7. Motion S5M-20564 was lodged by Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, and supported by Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.
8. Following the evidence session, Graeme Dey moved Motion S5M-20564 that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] be approved.
9. The motion was agreed to without division.
10. The evidence taken and the debate can be found in the [Official Report](#) for the SPPA Committee meeting of 30 January 2020.

The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] be approved.



# Annexe A - Extracts from Minutes

## 3rd Meeting 2020 (Session 5), Thursday 30 January 2020

**Subordinate legislation:** The Committee took evidence on the Representation of the People (Data Matching) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 [draft] and the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] from—

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Ewan McCaig, Solicitor, Legal Directorate, Maria McCann, Head of Elections Team, and Kenneth Pentland, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Government.

**Subordinate legislation:** Graeme Dey moved—S5M-20564—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Representation of the People (Annual Canvass) Amendment (Scotland) Order 2020 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

