



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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9th Report 2021 (Session 5)

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

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

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft]



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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.



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Committee Membership



Convener
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Scottish National Party



Deputy Convener
Patrick Harvie
Scottish Green Party



Neil Findlay
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Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Gil Paterson
Scottish National Party



John Scott
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Maureen Watt
Scottish National Party

The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft]

1. The Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft] was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 17 February 2021 and referred to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (SPPA Committee).
2. The purpose of the Order is to amend the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Order 2015 (“the 2015 Order”) to provide for an elector, who has already appointed a proxy to vote for them, to change their proxy if the original proxy would not now be able to vote in person because they are following Scottish Government or medical advice by shielding or self-isolating due to coronavirus.
3. The Order also widens the interpretation of “disability” in relation to emergency proxies and it corrects a minor cross-referencing error in the 2015 Order.

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Consideration

4. At its meeting on [23 February 2021](#), the DPLRC considered this instrument and had no comments to make.

SPPA Committee Consideration

5. Motion S5M-24190 was lodged by Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans, and supported by Michael Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations.

6. At the SPPA Committee's meeting on 4 March 2021, it took evidence on the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft] from—

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Iain Hockenhull, Elections Policy Adviser, Roddy Angus, Elections Policy Advisor, and Colin Brown, Senior Principal Legal Officer, Scottish Government.

7. Following the evidence session, Graeme Dey moved Motion S5M-24190 that the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft] be approved.
8. The motion was agreed to without division.
9. The evidence taken and the debate can be found in the Official Report for the SPPA Committee meeting of 4 March 2021.

10. **The Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft] be approved.**

Annex: Extract from minutes

6th Meeting 2021 (Session 5), Thursday 4 March 2021

Subordinate legislation: The Committee took evidence on the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft] and the Scottish Parliament General Election from—

Graeme Dey, Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans;

Iain Hockenhull, Elections Policy Adviser, Roddy Angus, Elections Policy Advisor, and Colin Brown, Senior Principal Legal Officer, Scottish Government.

3Subordinate legislation: Graeme Dey (Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans) moved—S5M-24190—That the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee recommends that the Scottish Parliament (Elections etc.) Amendment (Coronavirus) Order 2021 [draft] be approved.

The motion was agreed to.

