

MATERIAL FOR RELEASE – FOI 202300361918

From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:31 AM

To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Subject: Proposed Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

To note this new Bill proposal:

Graham Simpson: Proposed Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament)

Bill—Proposal for a Bill to: introduce new measures on removing an MSP from office, including additional grounds for removal and new processes for removal, such as recall. ?Proposed new grounds for removal include where an MSP does not participate in parliamentary proceedings for a given period without valid reason or receives a prison sentence lower than the current threshold for automatic removal. (lodged 19 January 2022).

A consultation document, lodged with the proposal, may be viewed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) or on the website page referred to above. The consultation period runs from 20 January 2022 to 13 April 2022.

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-removal-from-office-and-recall-scottish-parliament-bill>



From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2022 3:28 PM

To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Cc: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Subject: Member's Bill Draft Proposal: Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

Importance: High

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

As you are aware, a draft Member's Bill proposal has been lodged by Graham Simpson MSP in relation to the introduction of new measures for removing an MSP from office, including additional grounds and new processes for removal: Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill. The proposal is accompanied by a consultation exercise which will run from 20 January 2022 to 13 April 2022.

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-removal-from-office-and-recall-scottish-parliament-bill>

As the lead for this policy area, you should prepare a submission to the lead Cabinet Secretary/Minister, to make them aware of the proposal and agree lines to take, within 2 weeks of it having being lodged. Please ensure that the submission is copied to:

- CSCL Members
 - o DFM
 - o Minister for Parliamentary Business
 - o Lord Advocate
 - o Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights
- PLU ([Redacted under section 38(1)(b)])

Members Bill guidance for SG officials can be accessed at: [Non-Government Bills - Members Bills - Guidance](#).

Thanks.

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Parliament and Legislation Unit

From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 9:43 AM
To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: FW: Papers for the meeting of the Parliamentary Bureau, 25 January

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

In terms of the Members Bill Referral all is as expected in terms of allocation (for info) to SPPAC as lead Committee (with interest for EHRCJ).

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] On Behalf Of Minister for Parliamentary Business
Sent: 21 January 2022 09:08
To: CPGD : Parliament and Legislation Unit <DLCEABCPGDPLU@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Papers for the meeting of the Parliamentary Bureau, 25 January

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business

T: 0131 244 6389 M: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] E: MinisterPB@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:45 PM
To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Consultation Launch - Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

Hi [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

I can't get the link below to work, but the main proposal for the consultation seems clear – is this a PLU matter?

Thanks

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] | Elections and FOI Division | Scottish Government | Area 2 West | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Mobile: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: 03 February 2022 14:13

Subject: Consultation Launch - Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you on behalf of Graham Simpson, MSP for Central Scotland.

Mr Simpson has recently launched the consultation document for a Bill that would enable the removal of Members of the Scottish Parliament who fail to carry out their duties.

The **Removal from Office and Recall Bill** will allow for the dismissal from office of a member if they do not take part in parliamentary proceedings for more than six months without a valid reason. It will ensure the automatic removal from office of any MSP sentenced to a prison term regardless of the length of sentence. In addition, the Bill would also consider establishing a system of recall for MSPs, allowing voters to trigger an election to remove an MSP who has been sanctioned for breaching rules.

Mr Simpson would be particularly keen to hear your Council's opinions on the first element of the bill. This seeks to replicate provisions in the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 which requires councillors to vacate office if they fail to attend council meetings for a period of six consecutive months without prior approval.

Responses to the consultation can be submitted to <https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-removal-from-office-and-recall-scottish-parliament-bill> with the consultation closing on 13 April 2022.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Office of Graham Simpson MSP

Shadow Minister for Transport

MSP for Central Scotland

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]



In order to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations 2018, Graham has to ask for your consent to add you to his e-newsletter database to keep you up-to-date with his work.

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From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:43 PM
To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: RE: Consultation Launch - Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

Hi

It's not been introduced yet, so I guess the main question at present is whether the SG should respond to the consultation. I can't get the link to work, but will ask [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] if he has a view.

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] | Elections and FOI Division | Scottish Government | Area 2 West | St Andrews House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Mobile: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 10 February 2022 15:39
To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Cc: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: FW: Consultation Launch - Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

Hi [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Will we be called upon to do anything in response to this Bill? I remember when I worked on school meals policy we had to prepare a response to a Members Bill on that topic.

Or is it [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] in the lead?

Kind regards

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)] – Elections and FOI Division - Currently working from home - [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 07 February 2022 10:35
To: [Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]
Subject: FW: Consultation Launch - Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Are you aware of this?

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

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Sent: 03 February 2022 14:13
Subject: Consultation Launch - Removal from Office and Recall (Members of the Scottish Parliament) Bill

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also consider establishing a system of recall for MSPs, allowing voters to trigger an election to remove an MSP who has been sanctioned for breaching rules.

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Responses to the consultation can be submitted to <https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-removal-from-office-and-recall-scottish-parliament-bill> with the consultation closing on 13 April 2022.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]

Office of Graham Simpson MSP

Shadow Minister for Transport

MSP for Central Scotland

T: 0131 348 6985

E[Redacted under section 38(1)(b)]



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