

Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

Groupings of Amendments for Stage 2

This document provides procedural information which will assist in preparing for and following proceedings on the above Bill. The information provided is as follows:

- the list of groupings (that is, the order in which amendments will be debated). Any procedural points relevant to each group are noted;
- the text of amendments to be debated on the first day of Stage 2 consideration, set out in the order in which they will be debated. **THIS LIST DOES NOT REPLACE THE MARSHALLED LIST, WHICH SETS OUT THE AMENDMENTS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WILL BE DISPOSED OF.**

Groupings of amendments

Deadline for application for postal votes

18

Report on uptake of postal voting at closing date

1, 2, 19, 20, 3

Return of postal vote to be free of charge

21

Power to provide for all-postal votes

22, 4, 5, 6, 7, 23

Dissolution of current Parliament: consequential modification

8, 9

Multiple days for polling

24, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Information on election

25

Nomination of First Minister following election

16

Power of Presiding Officer to postpone election

26, 27

Commencement

17

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Amendments in debating order

Deadline for application for postal votes

Anas Sarwar

- 18 Leave out section 3

Report on uptake of postal voting at closing date

Graeme Dey

- 1 In section 4, page 2, line 2, leave out <setting out, as at 7 April 2021> and insert <, using the most recent information available as at 7 April 2021, setting out>

Graeme Dey

- 2 In section 4, page 2, leave out lines 3 to 5 and insert—
- <(a) the number of persons who are registered to vote at the 2021 election,
 - (b) the number of persons who have been granted a postal vote for the election, and
 - (c) the number of applications for a postal vote for the election which have been received but not determined.>

Anas Sarwar

- 19 In section 4, page 2, line 5, at end insert <, and
- () the resources that will be made available for processing postal votes.>

Neil Findlay

- 20 In section 4, page 2, line 5, at end insert <, and
- () the number of persons entitled to vote who have not applied for a postal vote.>

Graeme Dey

- 3 In section 4, page 2, line 6, after <must> insert <prepare and>

Return of postal vote to be free of charge

Anas Sarwar

- 21 After section 4, insert—

<Return of postal vote to be free of charge

The Scottish Ministers must make such provision (including in particular, but not limited to, the provision of freepost envelopes) as they consider necessary to ensure that postal voting in relation to the 2021 election is conducted at no financial cost to the voter.>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Power to provide for all-postal votes

Neil Findlay

- 22 In section 5, page 2, line 9, after <may> insert <if they consider it necessary for a reason relating to coronavirus>

Graeme Dey

- 4 In section 5, page 2, line 14, at end insert—
<(3A) Regulations under subsection (1) are subject to the affirmative procedure.>

Graeme Dey

- 5 In section 5, page 2, line 14, at end insert—
<(3B) When laying draft regulations under subsection (3A) before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must at the same time lay a statement of the reasons for the regulations, including information on the responses received from the persons listed in subsection (4).>

Graeme Dey

- 6 In section 5, page 2, line 15, leave out <making regulations under subsection (1)> and insert <laying draft regulations under subsection (3A)>

Adam Tomkins

- 7 In section 5, page 2, line 19, at end insert—
<() Regulations under subsection (1)—
 (a) may be made only—
 (i) where the Scottish Ministers consider it necessary for reasons relating to coronavirus, and
 (ii) with the consent of—
 (A) the Presiding Officer,
 (B) the Electoral Commission, and
 (C) the convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland,
 (b) are subject to the affirmative procedure.>

Anas Sarwar

- 23 After section 5, insert—
 <**Information on postal voting**
 (1) The Scottish Ministers must promote public awareness and understanding about the arrangements for an all-postal vote in relation to the 2021 election.
 (2) In exercising their functions under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must—
 (a) make use of radio, television, postal and online communications, and
 (b) ensure adequate resources are provided.>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Dissolution of current Parliament: consequential modification

Graeme Dey

- 8 In section 7, page 2, line 30, leave out <28> and insert <27>

Graeme Dey

- 9 In section 7, page 2, line 35, leave out <28> and insert <27>

Multiple days for polling

Anas Sarwar

- 24 In section 8, page 3, line 1, at end insert—
<() The polling for the ordinary general election for membership of the Scottish Parliament in 2021 is to take place on a second day of 7 May 2021 as well as the day of the poll.>

Graeme Dey

- 10 In section 8, page 3, line 2, leave out subsection (1) and insert—
<(1) If the convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland recommends to the Scottish Ministers that polling at the 2021 election should take place on one or more specified days, as well as on the day of the poll, the Scottish Ministers may by regulations give effect to that recommendation.>

Graeme Dey

- 11 In section 8, page 3, line 4, leave out subsection (2) and insert—
<(2) A day may be specified by the convener under subsection (1) only if it is—
(a) consecutive to the day of the poll or any other day so specified (unless the convener considers that there is a reason to recommend a break in polling days), and
(b) one of the 8 days immediately succeeding the day of the poll.>

Graeme Dey

- 12 In section 8, page 3, line 12, at end insert—
<(4A) Regulations under subsection (1) are subject to the affirmative procedure.>

Graeme Dey

- 13 In section 8, page 3, line 12, at end insert—
<(4B) When laying draft regulations under subsection (4A) before the Scottish Parliament, the Scottish Ministers must at the same time lay a statement of the reasons for the regulations, including information on the responses received from the persons listed in subsection (5).>

Graeme Dey

- 14 In section 8, page 3, line 13, leave out <making regulations under subsection (1)> and insert <laying draft regulations under subsection (4A)>

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

Adam Tomkins

- 15 In section 8, page 3, line 17, at end insert—
- <() Regulations under subsection (1)—
- (a) may be made only—
 - (i) where the Scottish Ministers consider it necessary for reasons relating to coronavirus, and
 - (ii) with the consent of—
 - (A) the Presiding Officer,
 - (B) the Electoral Commission, and
 - (C) the convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland,
 - (b) are subject to the affirmative procedure.>

Information on election

Anas Sarwar

- 25 After section 8, insert—
- <**Information on 2021 election**
- (1) Any information in relation to the 2021 election for the attention of persons entitled to vote at the 2021 election must be provided by—
 - (a) the Electoral Commission,
 - (b) the convener of the Electoral Management Board for Scotland, or
 - (c) the Electoral Registration Officers.
 - (2) For the avoidance of doubt, “information in relation to the 2021 election” does not include election communications from political parties.>

Nomination of First Minister following election

Graeme Dey

- 16 In section 9, page 3, line 34, insert—
- <(3) If the day fixed under subsection (1) is not within the period of seven days beginning immediately after the day of the poll, any relevant additional days are to be disregarded for the purpose of the calculation of the period allowed, under section 46 of the Scotland Act 1998, for the Parliament to nominate one of its members for appointment as First Minister after the poll for the 2021 election.
- (4) In subsection (3)—
- “the day of the poll” means 6 May 2021 (or, where the Presiding Officer has exercised the power conferred by section 11(1), the day fixed by the Presiding Officer under that section for the holding of the poll for the 2021 election),
- a “relevant additional day” means any day in the period—

THIS IS NOT THE MARSHALLED LIST

- (a) beginning with the eighth day immediately after the day of the poll, and
- (b) ending with the day fixed under subsection (1).>

Power of Presiding Officer to postpone election

Neil Findlay

- 26 In section 11, page 4, line 3, leave out <or appropriate for any reason to do so> and insert <for a reason related to coronavirus>

Neil Findlay

- 27 In section 11, page 4, line 6, leave out subsection (2)

Commencement

Graeme Dey

- 17 In section 15, page 5, leave out subsection (2)

© Parliamentary copyright. Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

The Scottish Parliament's copyright policy can be found on the website - www.scottish.parliament.uk or by contacting Public Information on 0131 348 5000.

Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body

All documents are available on
the Scottish Parliament website at:

www.scottish.parliament.uk/documents

For information on the Scottish Parliament contact
Public Information on:

Telephone: 0131 348 5000
Textphone: 0800 092 7100
Email: sp.info@scottish.parliament.uk
