



Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Act 2021

2021 asp 19

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 24th June 2021 and received Royal Assent on 4th August 2021

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to extend the period for which Part 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and Part 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 are in force; to provide for the expiry of certain provisions of those Parts; and for connected purposes.

1 Extension of provisions

- (1) Section 12 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 is amended in accordance with subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) In subsection (1), for “on 30 September 2021” substitute “ at the end of 31 March 2022 ”.
- (3) For subsections (3) and (4), substitute—

“(3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations amend subsection (1) so as to replace “31 March 2022” with “ 30 September 2022 ”.”.
- (4) Section 9 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 is amended in accordance with subsections (5) and (6).
- (5) In subsection (1), for “on 30 September 2021” substitute “ at the end of 31 March 2022 ”.
- (6) For subsections (3) and (4), substitute—

“(3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations amend subsection (1) so as to replace “31 March 2022” with “ 30 September 2022 ”.”.

2 Expiry of provisions

- (1) The provisions of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 referred to in subsections (2) to (7) expire at the end of 30 September 2021.
- (2) In schedule 2, paragraphs 2 and 3 (moratorium on diligence: multiple applications).

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Act 2021. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) Schedule 3 (children and vulnerable adults).
- (4) In schedule 4—
 - (a) paragraph 11 (exceptions to the rule that hearsay evidence is inadmissible),
 - (b) paragraph 12 (community payback orders: extension of unpaid work or other activity requirements),
 - (c) paragraph 14 (community orders: postponement),
 - (d) in paragraph 15 (community orders: variation)—
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (1), the words “and drug treatment and testing orders”,
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (6), the words “or drug treatment and testing order”.
- (5) In paragraph 4 of schedule 5 (alcohol licensing: licensing boards etc.), sub-paragraph (5)(d).
- (6) In schedule 6—
 - (a) paragraph 6 (freedom of information: Commissioner's ability to take account of impact of coronavirus),
 - (b) paragraph 13 (grounds for exclusion of the public from meetings of local authorities),
 - (c) paragraph 15 (duties under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000).
- (7) In schedule 7—
 - (a) paragraphs 1 and 5 (social security: period for re-determination of entitlement),
 - (b) paragraphs 23 to 30 (scrutiny of subordinate legislation in urgent cases).
- (8) The following provisions of schedule 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 expire at the end of 30 September 2021—
 - (a) in paragraph 3 (termination of student residential tenancy by tenant: requirements for notice)—
 - (i) sub-paragraph (2)(b)(i),
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (2)(b)(ii), the words “in any other case”,
 - (iii) sub-paragraphs (3) and (4),
 - (b) paragraph 6 (carer's allowance supplement),
 - (c) paragraph 24 (marriages and civil partnerships during emergency period).
- (9) For the purpose of section 13(1) of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, the expiry of a provision of that Act by virtue of this section is to be treated as if it were by virtue of previous regulations under section 13(1) of that Act.
- (10) For the purpose of section 10(1) of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020, the expiry of a provision of that Act by virtue of this section is to be treated as if it were by virtue of previous regulations under section 10(1) of that Act.

3 Suspension of provisions

- (1) The operation of paragraphs 22 and 23 (care homes: inspections and reporting on coronavirus deaths) of schedule 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 is suspended at the end of 30 September 2021.

- (2) For the purpose of section 8(1)(b) and (2) of the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020, the suspension by virtue of subsection (1) is to be treated as if it were by virtue of section 8(1)(a) of that Act.

4 Notice of changes to coronavirus related measures

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must, at least 24 hours before the proposed change would come into effect, lay before the Scottish Parliament a statement notifying it of any proposal to change a measure put in place by them to respond to the effect of the spread or incidence of coronavirus under—
- (a) the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020, or
 - (b) the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the Scottish Ministers consider that there are reasons of urgency which mean that it is not possible to comply with the requirement imposed by that subsection.
- (3) Where the Scottish Ministers rely on subsection (2), they must as soon as possible lay before the Scottish Parliament a statement explaining the circumstances.
- (4) In this section, “coronavirus” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020.

5 Report on certain matters relating to Act

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must no later than one month after the day of Royal Assent lay before the Scottish Parliament a report of—
- (a) progress being made towards marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations and associated celebratory events being able to be held without restrictions arising from the spread or incidence of coronavirus,
 - (b) their view of the effect of this Act on—
 - (i) the measures in place to help businesses to deal with the effects of disruption attributable to coronavirus,
 - (ii) live music and live music venues,
 - (iii) social security support available for carers,
 - (iv) support available to persons who are required to self-isolate for a reason relating to coronavirus, and
 - (v) social care services, and
 - (c) the use of fiscal fines (that is, conditional offers of fixed penalties under section 302 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995) during the period beginning on 7 April 2020 and ending on the day of Royal Assent.
- (2) The report must in particular include—
- (a) information on the restrictions remaining in place as respects the holding of marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations and associated celebratory events,
 - (b) information on the measures in place to help businesses deal with the effect of disruption attributable to coronavirus and any plans for further measures the Scottish Ministers propose to put in place to help businesses,

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- (c) information on the social security support to help carers put in place for a reason related to coronavirus and any plans for further social security support to help carers the Scottish Ministers propose to put in place for such a reason,
- (d) information on the support available to persons who are required to self-isolate for a reason relating to coronavirus and any plans for further support for such persons the Scottish Ministers propose to put in place,
- (e) information on the measures in place to restore social care services to their level as at 1 March 2020 and any plans for further measures the Scottish Ministers propose to put in place to secure this, and
- (f) information on—
 - (i) the numbers of fiscal fines issued for each level on the scale during the period mentioned in subsection (1)(c), and
 - (ii) the numbers of fiscal fines issued for each level of the scale in the period ending on 6 April 2020 which is of the same length as the period mentioned in subsection (1)(c).

(3) In this section—

“carer” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016,
 “coronavirus” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020,
 “the scale” means the scale in the schedule of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 Fixed Penalty Order 2008 (S.S.I. 2008/108) (as it had effect at the time).

6 Reporting on status of eviction provisions

- (1) Each report required by section 15(1) of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 must also include information on the operation during the period to which the report relates of schedule 1 of that Act, including in particular—
- (a) the measures in place to protect tenants from eviction and any plans for further measures the Scottish Ministers propose to put in place to protect tenants from eviction,
 - (b) the number of notices of proceedings issued to tenants in social housing as a result of rent arrears in the period,
 - (c) the total value of rent arrears in the social housing sector accumulated during the period, and
 - (d) the number of eviction orders because of rent arrears issued by the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland during the period.
- (2) But subsection (1) does not require a report to include information on the operation of a provision if the provision has been expired before the period to which the report relates.

7 Report on effect of Act on social care services

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must prepare and publish a report on the effect that the extension and expiry of provisions by this Act is likely to have on social care services.
- (2) The report must set out in particular whether the Scottish Ministers consider that further measures are required to ensure the early restoration of the availability of social care support packages and respite services to at least the level available prior to 1 March 2020.