

Ecocide (Scotland) Bill Financial Memorandum

Finance and Public Administration Committee

September 2025

Response submitted via Citizen Space

1. Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Finance and Public Administration Committee's consultation on its Ecocide (Scotland) Bill Financial Memorandum.

2. ESS is a non-ministerial office directly accountable to Scottish Parliament, since 1 October 2021, it has been a component of the system of environmental governance in Scotland following the UK's exit from the European Union and the end of oversight of implementation of European Union environmental law by the European Commission and the European Court of Justice. ESS' remit is to:

- ensure public authorities, including the Scottish Government, public bodies and local authorities, comply with environmental law
- monitor and take action to improve the effectiveness of environmental law and its implementation

Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so did you comment on the financial assumptions made?

3. No – ESS did not take part in any previous consultation on the Bill.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?

4. N/A

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?

5. N/A

If the Bill has any financial implications for you or your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.

6. Yes. ESS agree that the financial implications, as set out in the financial memorandum, are reasonable.

If the Bill is passed, ESS staff will need to familiarise themselves with this new piece of environmental law to understand the new offence and its implications across the public sector, to enable us to scrutinise compliance with, and the effectiveness of the law and how it is being implemented.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?

7. Yes – the estimates appear reasonable and accurate for ESS.

If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?

8. Yes – ESS is content that the estimated financial costs can be met from existing budgets.

Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill's estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?

9. No comment.