SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2026 No. 96 (C. 7)

LEGAL SERVICES

The Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2026

Made - - - -	*17th February 2026*
Laid before the Scottish Parliament	*19th February 2026*
Coming into force - -	*5th March 2026*

The Scottish Ministers make the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 103(3) and (4) of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025(**a**).

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2026 and come into force on 5 March 2026.

(2) In these Regulations, "the Act" means the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025.

Appointed days

2.—(1) 5 March 2026 is the day appointed for the coming into force of the provisions of the Act specified in column 1 of the table in schedule 1 of these Regulations (the subject matter of which is described in the corresponding entry in column 2 of that table).

(2) Where a purpose is specified in column 3 of the table in schedule 1, the corresponding provision in column 1 comes into force in accordance with paragraph (1) only for that purpose.

(3) 1 July 2026 is the day appointed for the coming into force of the provisions of the Act specified in column 1 of the table in schedule 2 of these Regulations (the subject matter of which is described in the corresponding entry in column 2 of that table).

(**a**) 2025 asp 8.

(4) Where a purpose is specified in column 3 of the table in schedule 2, the corresponding provision in column 1 comes into force in accordance with paragraph (3) only for that purpose.

SIOBHIAN BROWN
Authorised to sign by the Scottish Ministers

St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
17th February 2026

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 2(1)

Provisions of the Act coming into force on 5 March 2026

Column 1 *(provision of the Act)*	*Column 2* *(subject matter)*	*Column 3* *(purpose)*
Part 1 (sections 1 to 37)	Regulatory framework	For the purpose of the Lord President making rules under section 95.
Part 2 (sections 38 to 49)	Regulation of legal businesses	For the purpose of the Lord President making rules under section 95.
Section 79	Commission membership	
Section 89	Removal of practising restrictions: law centres, citizens advice bodies and charities	
Section 95	Lord President's functions under Parts 1 and 2: rule-making power	
Schedule 2	Further provision about measures open to the Lord President	For the purpose of the Lord President making rules under section 95.

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 2(3)

Provisions of the Act coming into force on 1 July 2026

Column 1 *(provision of the Act)*	*Column 2* *(subject matter)*	*Column 3* *(purpose)*
Section 5	Meaning of "legal services" and "legal services provider"	For the purpose of the Law Society of Scotland preparing its rules for authorising and regulating legal businesses in accordance with section 48.
Section 7(2)	Regulatory categories	For the purpose of the Law Society of Scotland preparing its rules for authorising and regulating legal businesses in accordance with section 48.
Section 38(6)	Overview of Part	For the purpose of introducing Part 2 of schedule 1 as it applies to section 48.
Section 39	Requirement for legal businesses to be authorised to provide legal services	For the purpose of the Law Society of Scotland preparing its rules for authorising and regulating legal businesses in accordance with section 48.
Sections 41 to 47	Rules for authorised legal businesses	For the purpose of the Law Society of Scotland preparing its rules for authorising and regulating legal businesses in accordance with section 48.
Section 48	Law Society of Scotland	For all remaining purposes.
Section 80	Role of the independent advisory panel	
Part 2 of schedule 1	Regulation of legal businesses	For the purpose of the Law Society of Scotland preparing its rules for authorising and regulating legal businesses in accordance with section 48.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations bring certain provisions of the Regulation of Legal Services (Scotland) Act 2025 ("the Act") into force. The Bill for the Act received Royal Assent on 27 June 2025. By virtue of section 103(1) and (2), that section together with section 104 came into force that day, and sections 100 to 102 came into force on 28 June 2025.

Regulation 2(1) and (2) and schedule 1 appoint 5 March 2026 for the coming into force of sections 1 to 49 (for a limited purpose), 79, 89, 95 and schedule 2 (for a limited purpose) of the Act.

Regulation 2(3) and (4) and schedule 2 appoint 1 July 2026 for the coming into force of sections 5 (for a limited purpose), 7(2) (for a limited purpose), 38(6) (for a limited purpose), 39 (for a limited purpose), 41 to 47 (for a limited purpose), 48 (for all remaining purposes), 80 and Part 2 of schedule 1 (for a limited purpose) of the Act.

Section 79 amends schedule 1 of the Legal Profession and Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 2007 ("2007 Act") to make changes to the length of term of board members of the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission ("the Commission"). The change also introduces flexibility in the number of board members and removes a requirement for a number of legal members to have a minimum term of practising experience.

Section 89 amends the Solicitors (Scotland) Act 1980 to remove barriers for third-sector organisations to employ solicitors directly and offer certain reserved legal services.

Section 95 creates a power for the Lord President to make rules in connection with the exercise of the Lord President's functions under Parts 1 and 2 of the Act. Sections 1 to 49, which make up Parts 1 and 2 of the Act, and schedule 2 are commenced for the limited purpose of enabling the Lord President to produce those rules.

Section 48 requires the Law Society of Scotland to create rules in respect of the regulation of legal businesses within a time period agreed with the Lord President but no longer than 3 years. Sections 5, 7(2), 39 and 41 to 47 are commenced for the purpose of facilitating the creation of those rules. Part 2 of schedule 1 is also commenced for that limited purpose and section 38(6) is commenced for the limited purpose of introducing Part 2 of schedule 1.

Section 80 expands the functions of the independent advisory panel (known as the "Consumer Panel") created under the 2007 Act. The Consumer Panel will have the power to make recommendations to the Commission in relation to any of its functions and to legal services regulators and the Lord President in relation to their functions conferred by the Act.

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