

SCHEDULE 3
AMENDMENTS OF THE **SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN ACT 2002 (ASP 11)**

Strategic plans

7 After section 17 there is inserted—

“17A Strategic plans

- (1) The Ombudsman must, in respect of each 4 year period, lay before the Parliament a plan (referred to in this section as a “strategic plan”) setting out how the Ombudsman proposes to perform the Ombudsman’s functions during the 4 year period.
- (2) A strategic plan must, in particular, set out—
 - (a) the Ombudsman’s objectives and priorities during the 4 year period,
 - (b) how the Ombudsman proposes to achieve them,
 - (c) a timetable for doing so, and
 - (d) estimates of the costs of doing so.
- (3) Before laying a strategic plan before the Parliament, the Ombudsman must provide a draft of it to and invite, and (if any are given) consider, comments on it from—
 - (a) the Parliamentary corporation, and
 - (b) such other persons as the Ombudsman thinks appropriate.
- (4) The reference in subsection (3)(b) to other persons includes a reference to a committee of the Parliament.
- (5) The Ombudsman must lay each strategic plan before the Parliament not later than the beginning of the 4 year period to which the plan relates.
- (6) The Ombudsman must arrange for the publication of each strategic plan laid before the Parliament.
- (7) The Ombudsman may, at any time during a 4 year period, review the strategic plan for the period and lay a revised strategic plan before the Parliament.
- (8) Subsections (2) to (7) apply to a revised strategic plan as they apply to a strategic plan.
- (9) In that application, the reference in subsection (5) to the 4 year period is a reference to the period to which the revised strategic plan relates.
- (10) In this section, “4 year period” means the period of 4 years beginning on 1 April next following the coming into force of this section and each subsequent period of 4 years.”