

# Proposed Electricians (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a bill to provide for the protection of title and registration of electricians. The consultation runs from 19 August to 10 November 2020. All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document. Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer. All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response. Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded. Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here: [Consultation Document](#) [Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used

## About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. (Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Stuart Whitby

## Aim and approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully opposed

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

This bill appears to be the result of trade bodies lobbying parliament. The result of this is that those bodies get their membership increased by electricians who otherwise are able to provide a lower cost service without having to pay their fees. Fully competent electricians without membership - including those proficient in DIY electrics, are now tied in to doing the work themselves then having to pay a certified electrician to check something that works.

This is nepotism and against the principles of a free society. If a car is sold privately, it's caveat emptor as regards the maintenance history of that vehicle. If you buy a house, it should be the same - a higher value for one with a full service history by qualified companies. If you want the electrics checked before buying, that should be up to the buyer as part of a provisional offer.

The proposed bill imposes costs on the electrician which are passed on to the consumer. It also imposes costs on the taxpayer to fund the setup, administration and infrastructure costs of the national register.

Q2. What do you think would be the main practical advantages of the proposed Bill?

Greater surety of electrical safety by qualified electricians.

Q3. What do you think would be the main practical disadvantages of the proposed Bill?

The inability of good electrical apprentices with strong recommendations to take on additional work to allow them to make ends meet, the penalising of proficient home DIY enthusiasts who can perform work themselves, the additional cost imposed on consumers for electrical work and for the taxpayer funding to run the registration service, the strengthening of the hand of trade organisations who have their own interests at heart.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of the establishment of a single register for electricians?

Fully opposed

**Please give any views or comments on a single register and how it might be set up**

This should be run as an additional requirement on a department which already runs a similar register. But it shouldn't be run.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing protection of title for electricians?

Fully opposed

**Please give any views or comments either on the principle or practical operation of protection of title:**

There can be no protection of title without award of title. This means official standardised testing and examination of people who have been time served and competent electricians for years, apprentices who have learned side by side with those people, electrical engineering students, and anyone who has taken it upon themselves to learn the trade from the ground up.

## Financial Implications

Q6. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
<b>(a) Government and the public sector</b>		X				
<b>(b) Businesses</b>		X				
<b>(c) Individuals</b>	X					

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

- a) this wouldn't cost significantly more in percentage terms than we're already paying the government, but it would cost. Drop the idea and save adding to the embarrassment of the billions in additional funding Scotland receives.
- b) Costs of registration need to be paid, and that is added to bills all the way down the line.
- c) There's now a requirement to use registered electricians in many cases, which adds significant cost to individuals - especially in areas where these are few and far between and the additional time and fuel is taken into account on the invoice.

Q7. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Drop it and promote individual responsibility. Caveat emptor.

## Equalities

Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Protected characteristics are [REDACTED] in terms of equality of opportunity.

Q9. In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

By not enacting it.

## Sustainability

Q10. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

As per previous responses.

## General

Q11. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

Freedom > protection.