

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

BAFE (British Approvals for Fire Equipment) is the independent registration body for third party certified fire protection companies across the UK. It maintains a national independent register of quality fire safety service providers.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

BAFE develops schemes, which are sets of competency criteria, that UKAS Accredited Certification Bodies use to assess companies providing specific fire safety services. Companies can be assessed for their competency providing fire risk assessments, fire alarm services, emergency lighting, portable fire extinguisher maintenance, fixed gaseous extinguishing systems and kitchen suppression/extinguishing systems. New schemes to help keep any risks manageable are being developed based on industry and end user demand and available standards.

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).

Mr Stephen Adams, Chief Executive, BAFE (British Approvals for Fire Equipment)

Aim and approach

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

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

BAFE's schemes include Fire Detection and Alarm Systems SP203-1 scheme and Emergency Lighting Systems SP203-4 scheme. Both schemes cover system design, installation, commissioning and maintenance. BAFE is fully aware of the need for electricians to be competent so that fire related life safety systems are correctly and efficiently installed and be compliant with the electrical standards relating to these schemes.

BAFE has campaigned for many years for higher professional standards among fire risk assessors. We continuously develop our Life Safety Fire Risk Assessment SP205 scheme. We are therefore committed to developing the highest of professional standards and are convinced of the need in the analagous field of electrical safety for the registration of electricians and protection of title to raise standards and to ensure competence throughout the electro technical industry.

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

The main advantages would be to ensure high standards of electrical work, safer buildings, fair trading from a level playing field, a reduced level of accidents with lower levels of economic loss and a boost to the confidence and self esteem of practitioners, ensuring a more attractive professional status for new entrants to the industry. This is especially relevant when related to life safety systems such as fire alarms and emergency lighting.

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

Any disadvantages would be insignificant if set against the across the board gains of this legislation

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

Fully supportive

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

The advantage of a single register is of course clarity. Whilst more a matter for the profession and wider industry to comment upon, BAFE understands that there is already a form of industry register, the governance of which could be adapted and its coverage extended.

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

Fully supportive

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

Protection of title will bring about a higher threshold of standards and deter the unqualified, incompetent and illicit tradesman, which is especially important where fire life safety systems are involved.

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
(a) Government and the public sector				X		
(b) Businesses		X				
(c) Individuals			X			

Please explain the reasons for your response

The main long term benefit for government and the public sector will be the reduction in the cost of accidents, injuries and the occasional fatality. The cost of administering registration and protection of title which would not seem to be onerous and can reasonably be borne by the industry and the end user or consumer.

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

BAFE is not in a position to answer this question.

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)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The impact of the Bill would appear to be the same for one and all.

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

Not sure that there are any negative impacts

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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Better workmanship will eliminate the costs of repetition

General

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

The Bill is very welcome. It will make a significant contribution in raising standards amongst electricians with consequent economic and social benefits for all. It is probably long overdue.