

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

I am the CEO of a technology company that analyses over 3000 electrical documents a day from landlords and clients around the whole of the UK. We have major clients in Scotland.

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).

Ryan Dempsey FIET

Aim and approach

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I do not believe the content of the proposed bill is factual. The industry has Competent Person Schemes who provide the general public with some level of assurance in regards to electrical safety. Protecting the title will realistically make no difference to poor workmanship or incompetence as it is likely that these jobs will continue.

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

The benefit of this bill is raising awareness of the issues currently present in the electrical industry. These issues have been gradual in growth and have been predominately based on training centers/providers benefiting from the many different competency-based activities in the electrical industry. Ultimately, the fact this bill exists signifies an issue that requires a high level of attention, even if the aim is not required, the attention is welcome.

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

The electrical industry is made up of multiple sub-sectors that require experience to safely work in that environment. Creating a 'title' that describes a person who is capable of working across all of these is dangerous and shows a lack of understanding of the actual work in the sector. By pushing forward with this bill, the Scottish Government should accept that they are creating a barrier between what is now and what is commercially beneficial to whoever holds the said register. This barrier means less notified work and more noncompliant off-piste electrical work which is untraceable. This then creates the downward spiral whereby electricians are forced to compete with electricians on price and quality. Ultimately leading to public safety issues.

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

Fully opposed

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

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

Oppose this as the current structure in the electrical industry has Competent Person Schemes, which we should support and strengthen rather than create a new wheel.

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:

for reasons given previously the protection of a title will lead to increased dangerous work as electricians are unable to meet the requirements.

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 cost of change at this scale is vast. Believing there's a minimal impact is naive as the change will require businesses and local government to monitor and upskill. The private sector will see work that is unable to be traced and non notified which will result in increased rework costs.

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

The way in which to improve public safety is to educate the public on what's right and what's not. Implementing the bill to impact those who already do things right will not give measurable improvements. The bill as it stands now impacts the spark significantly and punishes those who currently work as safely and as competently as possible. it does not improve the negative statements or statistics reported.

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)

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

No Response

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.

We have something we should improve. Starting from the beginning again at this stage is non-negotiable.

General

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

I had an invite to attend one of the meetings in Scotland but was made aware that another member of the group, representing a Competent Person Scheme, asked for my invite to be removed. The content of my software and the contents of my network would provide factual evidence of any issues that need addressing. We cannot change a sector based on assumptions when we have access to the facts.