

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

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

Qualified SJIB Approved Electrician

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).

Ramsay Leuchars

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.

The electrical industry in Scotland and the UK has been unregulated for too long with a number of non qualified individuals undertaking unsafe electrical work or individuals carrying out DIY to an unsafe standard.

Significant amounts of electrical jobs are being carried out particularly in the domestic sector to a poor standard and not being given appropriate certification upon completion which in many cases confirms a lack of knowledge and training.

A standard similar to Gas Safe is required and clarity around what qualifies someone as an electrician. The SJIB recognise SVQ level 3 apprenticeship and the FICA assessment must be completed to be deemed qualified and qualify for a Gold Card.

After this the Advanced Competency assessment to become Approved proving further knowledge and experience for supervising others.

These should be the basic levels required, to meet registration or other qualifications such as the UK AM2 assessment and 2391-52 qualifications.

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

To remove those carrying out electrical work that isn't in accordance with BS7671 and without appropriate training or competency.

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

Clarifying the required standards to be met for those with industry experience but no formal apprenticeship.

Many have 2391-52, relevant BS7671 2018 qualifications and work to a high standard, it could be they must pass the FICA/AM2 after providing the relevant on site evidence similar to the apprenticeship log book scheme.

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

Fully supportive

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

Using the Current SJIB Gold card scheme eligible for all those who are registered as serving a recognised apprenticeship and hold an up to date ECS qualification.

This would provide a register of those known qualified electricians in Scotland and those across the UK.

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:

Protecting the title of electrician would potentially create a system where by those practicing as electricians without being qualified could be prosecuted and give similar protections to Gas Safe for gas engineers.

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

Across the 3 sectors I would only foresee a rise in cost in the domestic sector as it is targeted by non trained individuals and those carrying out DIY at home.

Currently within the industry there is a race to the bottom due to non electricians undercutting contractor pricing and domestic customers looking for a cheap price. This is escalated as DIY stores and electrical wholesalers sell to the general public where parts are purchased with no proof of competency. This is a issue that needs addressed as a side issue to reduce DIY electrical work beyond simple tasks.

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

Potentially if it were included that the new law surrounding domestic smoke alarms or the potential for AFDD's being required under amendment 2 grants were then made available using registered electricians to offset the cost.

This would improve safety across domestic and commercial/industrial sectors.

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.

I don't see the proposed bill effecting equality as it is non personal and aims to raise electrical standards and safety across the sector.

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

N/a

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.

The proposed bill can be delivered sustainably.

General

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

The bill should achieve a standard similar to Gas Safe that unsafe work that is uncertified/carried out by non qualified individuals can be prosecuted.