

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).

SNIEF is the trade association for plumbing and heating businesses operating in Scotland Northern Ireland. Established in 1923, our objectives are to:

- Promote professional plumbing and high standards across the industry;
- Support members to run professional and profitable businesses;

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

- Provide quality assurance to consumers;
- Ensure the industry has a skilled and qualified workforce

Like SELECT, we also operate an Approved Certifier of Construction Scheme but for plumbing, drainage and heating.

SNIPEF and its Members strongly supports the regulation of the Electrical sector by giving Electricians protected title and by the introduction of a unified register.

While Gas Engineers have protected title operating via the GasSafe Register, Plumbers do not and the industry suffers in much the same way as that of the Electrical sector. We would hope that the same recognition could be extended to Plumbers as is being proposed for Electricians.

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).

Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation (SNIPEF)

Aim and approach

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

Fully supportive

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

The Register would provide one central location where consumers could locate an electrician who they would be assured would be qualified to undertake the work. Qualified electricians who hold appropriate qualifications would be recognised for their professionalism and there would be a more level playing field in which they can compete. Currently, this is not the case when individuals who purport to be qualified are not.

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

Time taken to introduce legislation and set up the register as well as getting those in the industry with no formal qualifications but who are "time served" recognised as competent.

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

Using the existing Building Standards Certification Register would make sense. Over time this could be expanded to not only show that the individual is qualified but also what specialisms they hold. From a plumbing perspective the individual may be a qualified plumber but they may have gone on further to specialise in renewable work where further qualifications are required.

If this was not to be used then the SJIB register might be an option as this will capture over time a "cradle to grave" approach tracking the individual from the point they enter the industry as an apprentice to when they retire. This would also link to the card scheme encouraging individuals to hold cards to provide evidence of competency and identification.

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:

Having read the list of all professions given professional title it is unbelievable that trades like electrical and plumbing where work undertaken wrongly can have such devastating consequences are not recognised.

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

Government and public bodies - while there may be a cost in enforcing regulations, the register if using the Building Standards Certification Scheme is already well established. Government and public bodies would also benefit from using the register when awarding contracts - by using competent professionals they would be assured that the work would be completed right first time.

Businesses - in my experience businesses would be prepared to pay a reasonable amount if the long term effect would be to obliterate "white van man". In addition, insurance companies could have more assurance from a register and in time the reduction in claims might reflect in insurance premiums.

Individuals - may see an increase in cost if they have previously used non-qualified individuals but this

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

should be outweighed by having the job done right first time and the reassurance that the professional should have the appropriate insurance and a process for recourse should things not go to plan.

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

Scottish Government could work with insurance sector to link domestic house insurance to using someone on the register. Similarly any insurance claims would require someone on the register to undertake work.

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?

Yes

General

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

SNIPeF would like to see this extended to other trades i.e. plumbing. The UK is behind so many other countries in regulation around in particular the electrical and plumbing sector and Scotland is in a position to lead the way.