

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).

Diane Hales

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.

It is important that Electricians are regulated to drive up standards and to ensure that those who call themselves electricians can prove that they are fully qualified and competent to carry out the work.

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

What's proposed seems sensible and straightforward and sends a message to the cowboys to move on or better still pack up and will put Electricians on a par with other trades such as Gas Engineers

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

There aren't any

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 SJIB already have a process in place this would just need to be 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 enhances the profession's status and reputation by restricting opportunities for the unskilled or semi-skilled.

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

It really all depends on how the register is set up. If we use existing frameworks like the SJIB, then the costs should not be prohibitive.

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

higher wages imply higher productivity, quality of work and the fact that practitioners take a share of the benefits of the savings to be had from better safety in the form of higher wages.

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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

By making the role of Electrician a protected title and by implication a "profession" alongside other competing protected roles, this will lead to greater interest from women and lead to more joining the industry which would be a significant advantage to us all.

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

It is important to get the message about regulation as wide as possible and the industry and the government would need to work together to get information out as soon and as widely as possible.

It's important to manage any extra costs or red tape carefully so that there is no significant increase in either. Thus, using the existing scheme via the SJIB would minimise any such large increases.

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.

Having a qualified and trained workforce is a real benefit to our country. Electricity is more and more important as we begin to see more electric vehicles being used, our homes being heated by electricity rather than gas. Therefore, regulation will actually become more rather than less important going forward

General

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

There is overwhelming evidence that the general public thinks that electricians are regulated when of course they are not. People are genuinely very surprised when told that you need no formal qualification to call yourself an electrician. All survey evidence points to this and to a strong demand from the public that electricians should be qualified in the interests of consumer safety and it should be done sooner rather than later.