

[CONTACT DETAILS REDACTED]

15 October 2020

Jamie Halcro Johnston MSP
Room M2.18
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Dear Jamie,

Electricians (Scotland) Bill

The Civil Engineering Contractors Association Scotland (CECA Scotland) welcomes the opportunity to respond to your proposed bill to provide for the protection of title and registration of electricians.

CECA Scotland is the representative body for companies who work day-to-day to deliver, upgrade, and maintain Scotland's transport and utility networks. With over 100 members in Scotland, we represent companies who together carry out up to 80 per cent of all civil engineering activity in Scotland.

Our members include some of the largest construction firms as well as a range of small specialist and regional contractors. Across Scotland, our industry supports the employment of over 30,000 people with annual activity worth around £3 billion.

Our response is focused on the general principles of the Bill, of which we are very happy to give out support. We hope that the proposed Electricians (Scotland) Bill will be of benefit not only to industry but to consumers and believe that registration is long overdue, given Scotland is almost alone in the European Union in not operating a registration scheme for electricians.

Presently, any individual can present themselves as an electrician and undertake electrical work on that basis, without having demonstrated any skills or qualifications. The Bill would stop this happening and give both the public and the wider industry the confidence that those carrying out electrical work are properly qualified, experienced, and competent. It seems a glaring anomaly that when virtually every other trade in the UK is regulated, that no such scheme operates for electricians.

As well as protecting the title of electrician, the Bill would provide a boost to wider society. Reducing the frequency of faulty electrical installations and poorly finished jobs would in turn reduce the incidence, cost and impact of fires and other safety hazards.

Ensuring electricians are fully trained and operate safely wherever they work, is not only efficient, it can and does save lives. And from a purely financial perspective, introducing such a scheme would likely incur minimal costs, given it could evolve easily and cost effectively from the existing Scottish Joint Industry Board registration.

Looking to the future, the Scottish Government's Infrastructure Investment Plan for Scotland 2021-22 to 2025-26 contains bold commitments, many of which it will rely on the electrical industry to deliver, such as investing billions in decarbonising heat in buildings. Particularly in the context of recent building issues, both here in Scotland and south of the border, it is surely more vital than ever that those undertaking such vital public and private infrastructure work are properly trained and qualified. The proposed Bill would play a key role in meeting this objective.

In submitting out response, I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice.

We look forward to following the progress of your Bill to put regulation of electricians on a statutory footing. Thank you for working with industry and across the political divide to progress this important health and safety issue for Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

[SIGNATURE REDACTED]

GRAHAME BARN
Chief Executive
CECA Scotland