

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

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).

Bruce Dickson

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.

At present, anyone can claim to be an electrician and work on an electrical installation, which undermines the value of apprenticeships, the purpose of which is to properly train tradespeople to work in the industry in a safe and competent manner. Given the health and safety implications of defective electrical installations, workers undertaking these installations should have the proper training and accreditation.

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

Improved quality of electrical installations, better health and safety, increase the value and attractiveness of apprenticeships

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

The management, administration and enforcement of the new standard

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

There is an existing SJIB model which could be adapted to ensure that anyone calling themselves and electrician could be checked to ensure they were qualified and competent to undertake electrical work.

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:

The general public probably expect that such a regulation is already in place

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

By definition increased training and qualification to do a job result in some additional costs, but only for businesses/individuals which/who do not already operate without such accreditation. The question is whether allowing unqualified workers should continue if the end result is cheaper against supporting those individuals and firms that train/provide training and are fully qualified to ensure that the installation is safe and compliant.

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

Outside of accepting the status quo, setting higher barriers to entry will, almost by definition, result in some costs but only in the sectors that are currently employing unqualified and unregulated workers which would really be parts of the private sector rather than Government, so I would not expect any additional costs for the public sector. The potential increased tax benefits from higher salaries paid to qualified workers, better tax adherence by regulated workers and firms and safer installations resulting in less fires etc (cost to wider society) should offset any direct costs.

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.

The current industry lacks diversity - regulation of title and setting higher professional standards are part of a route map to addressing these issues.

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

No negative impact

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.

Given the current environmental emergency driving the increasing use of renewable non carbon energy and technology, which is by definition going to be electric, the increase in the skill base of this sector would seem to be a key requirement of delivering sustainable policies and achieving the planned environment impacts.

General

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

If you look at the evidence being heard in the current Grenfell enquiry a consistent theme is the expectation that professionals and tradespeople were qualified to undertake works for which they had no actual training or qualification. This Bill opens an opportunity to ensure compliance with regulations and health and safety standards for electrical installations.