

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. 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

Commercial organisation (company, business)

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).

MME Electrical Service Ltd

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 long overdue that properly trained electricians are recognised as highly trained and skilled professional people. I appreciate this most likely relates mostly to the domestic market as commercial and industrial sites, usually, but not always, consists of proving your skills by way of grade cards etc, however, the domestic market is without doubt, the area where the fraudulent traders operate the most, and the public do not know any better. The public need to be assured that the work that they pay for is being carried out professionally and safely. The ONLY way to achieve this is by protected title and registration. I know there is already a base build for this if the sjib was to be elaborated on in order to facilitate a public access register so the cost to administer such a scheme should not be excessive. The financial benefit to registered electricians should, in theory, be increased, if they are not loosing out by competing with "wee tam from the pub who will change your fuse board for £50". The government would also win, by way of declared earnings being taxed rather than wee tam sticking the cash in his back pocket. Everyone is safe, everyone benefits.... It is a no brainer.

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

The consumer having work carried out safely is absolutely the main advantage of the Bill.

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

Possibly further admin and scheme membership costs to the individual, but this should be offset by obtaining more work.

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

It must be simple and clear for it to work. The sjib might be familiar to us electricians, however it means nothing to the general public so I would imagine a massive advertising campaign would be essential. Local authorities need to get on top of their game when it comes to vetting or verifying electricians being proposed for works relating to building control or planning consent, Local Authorities MUST be all singing from the same hymn sheet, regardless of location. Too many years of certain councils checking every detail and others passing a performing monkey without question. The certifier of construction scheme could become mandatory when dealing with notifiable works, the voluntary scheme isn't working. Only when all of these schemes connect and the public can verify their chosen sparkie to be a good guy, can our industry be dragged from decline.

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:

100% behind it. Love this industry and what I chose to do and worked bloody hard to be good at and properly trained. My son has joined my business and is commencing his 1st year apprenticeship this month at Clydebank College. I want him to grow up and work hard to be the best he can be but i want him to be treated with the regard and respect he will deserve, not thought of as some semi skilled grunt.

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

The government may experience a slight cost due to needing to set up a think tank to think about thinking about it all, and then setting up new offices to look at it and wonder how to administer it all OR the sjib could just add some more software to their existing systems and hey presto.. a register. The register could be accessible to the public, local authorities and be a good way of sending out reminders to sparks, that maybe their inspection & testing will need renewed soon (although wee Mary at SELECT does that already)

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

Appoint the sjib as administrators, It's already set up.... Use it

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

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think a lot of young people are craving recognition. If someone is at the moment (cov 19 aside) considering a career in the electrotechnical industry, and will be asked to work hard, study, pass exams, develop more skills than most traditional "professionals", reading drawings, fault finding, testing, installation, use power tools safely, manage labour, manage accounts and budgets, create risk assessments and take responsibility for your work force's safety, be a councilor, negotiator, lawyer, boss and the list of skills go on and on..... your damn right they expect to be taken seriously in life, treated with the respect they have earned. It will absolutely attract a new generation of sparks, from every section of the human race

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

I can not see any negative impact of the Bill relating to equality within Scotland's workforce. The deeper argument here relates to the outcomes of Brexit and any notion of Independence from the rest of the UK. Some could argue that only Scottish registered sparks can work in Scotland, potentially leading to being accused of being prejudiced towards sparks from the other home nations. This could be problematic when, for example, large UK wide contractors, are sending a crew up from down south to fit out a starbucks. The register would not permit the English sparks to work, unless there was some kind of UK wide register or each home nation had one that could be accessed by neighboring countries to verify professional credibility of each spark on site. This would be more effort and cost to administer but...but ...but surely safety and keeping people alive is paramount for any country. Hopefully it could be the start of the end for the monster failure that is Part P qualified. A creation that led to a country of "builders" kitchen fitters and bathroom fitters genuinely believing that was them now qualified sparks.

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?

Please Holyrood... don't miss this opportunity to send a message to the world, that Scottish Sparks are world class and should be treated with the respect and professional status they are entitled to and worked bloody hard for.