

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).

Fiona Thompson

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.

Anyone can claim to be an electrician and work on an electrical installation at present. It is wrong that someone who has no qualifications can work with such a dangerous medium, compromising the safety of members of the public with their lack of knowledge and skills. An Electrician to me means someone who is qualified and competent.

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

It will improve safety and standards by deterring the unqualified and semi-skilled.

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

I can't think of any disadvantages.

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

A single register makes sense as it would be easily accessible especially if it's based on the existing SJIB model. It will help members of the public and contractors identify competent electricians and act as a barrier to the untrained.

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:

What's stopping the Scottish Government? This isn't excessive regulation and its common practice in other countries. Seems like common sense to me.

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

If the current SJIB model is adopted then I can't see any significant costs to anyone.

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

Netting off costs against benefits, research suggests a cautious estimate of net benefits to Scotland from proper regulation of electricians is c. £58million. This monetary figure includes all of the benefits from higher electrical standards, such as fewer injuries and deaths, better functioning installations, less need for call backs or for poor/unsafe work to be repaired leading to improved customer satisfaction.

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 numbers required to enter the industry to maintain and indeed grow the workforce, bearing in mind the drive towards an electric economy is significant, therefore increasing the number of women and other ethnic minority and other entrants will mean a significant benefit to the country as a whole

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

A publicity campaign for regulation of the industry would be vital to ensure that the Scottish householders and businesses are aware of the situation with electricians therefore widening the understanding for all. The industry and Scottish Government would need to work closely to ensure this happens.

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.

Yes. Any impacts are likely to be positive. From an economic view, such a Bill will give clarity to customers and will reduce not only the impact of re-doing faulty work, thus saving time and money but also more importantly, having work done safely, which will not put lives or property at risk.

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 already regulated when of course it is not. It is surprising that this is not the case and people are genuinely shocked. So in the interests of consumer safety and it should be done sooner rather than later.