

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

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

Qualified Approved Electrician and Unite the Union senior shop steward and health and safety rep and also RISC member.

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).

Greig McArthur

Aim and approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I'd recommend it goes further to make it illegal for anyone who is not a qualified electrician to do electrical work.

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

It would provide an easy way for the general public and potential employers with a system that guarantees qualifications and most importantly safety with regards to workmanship and safe electrical installations.

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

There's a massive loophole allowing unqualified and dangerous workers masquerading as "electricians" to continue to enter people's homes and premises and do unsafe electrical installations.

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

Again, fully supportive of the principal of a single accessible data based with which to check electricians qualifications but extremely unhappy that unqualified persons calling themselves electricians can still continue to operate unsafely and without any checks. This new system will simply fail because it will be undermined.

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 problem is that it will be a white elephant because it will be circumvented by unscrupulous businesses that employ unqualified electricians to undercut their competitors.

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

We already have one of the oldest and most robust systems for checking electrical qualifications called the ECS register which is already fully funded and ran by the SJIB, this would simply give it a legal status.

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

Yes, by making it illegal for unqualified individuals to call themselves electrician, the cost in deaths, damage to property, investigations etc will plummet but if this isn't addressed, these incidents will continue to blight communities and cost the public purse.

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.

Especially with regards to age and disability, this Bill will protect the most vulnerable and with regards to the other protected characteristics, they are already protected by the Equalities Act 2010 which Unite the Union and the SJIB fully play their parts.

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

By making it illegal in law for anyone who is not a qualified electrician and therefore can't enter their details on this new electricians register as illegal and punishable with fines and ultimately custodial sentences for any dangerous and unsafe or potentially dangerous and unsafe acts and omission in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 whilst doing any work.

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.

It should make projects more efficient and more safer thus saving costs on accident investigations in relation to unsafe electrical installations and damage to properties caused by fires from unsafe electrical installations.

General

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

Yes, to make it illegal for unqualified persons from doing electrical work in pursuit of employment or acting as a business!