

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.

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

Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

The Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT) was formed in 1990 to manage the SJIB Electrical Installation Apprenticeship programmes. SECTT is a registered charity governed by a Board of

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Trustees comprising of representatives from Electrical Contractors and Unite the Union. SECTT manage the training of all electrical apprentices for the whole of Scotland.

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).

The Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)

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.

As an electrical apprentice it takes between 4/5 years to become a fully qualified electrician. For anyone to call themselves an electrician without having undergone the rigorous training and site experience devalues the apprenticeship. Everything that electricians undertake is safety critical and without proper training and experience makes them a danger to property, the public, their colleagues and themselves.

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

SECTT believe that Protection of Title of the term Electrician would significantly enhance consumer, client and public protection and safety. When an Electrician is recognised as a profession this would attract a more diverse workforce, encouraging those from underrepresented groups to apply to become an Electrician.

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

It may be perceived that Protection of Title would bring additional costs and red tape - all parties who are already in discussions agree that costs would be kept to a minimum and registration would be kept simple.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of the establishment of a single register for electricians?

Fully supportive

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of the establishment of a single register for electricians?

Please give any views or comments on a single register and how it might be set up

Fully supportive. A single register based on the existing SJIB model would provide the comfort and security that someone calling themselves an electrician was 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:

Protection of title enhances the profession's status and reputation, those who are qualified Electricians have pride in themselves and holding an SJIB Grade Card as a badge of honour. Everyone we speak to and advise that there is no restriction over calling yourself an electrician without holding industry qualifications is amazed that no such rules are 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

If we use existing frameworks like the SJIB, then the costs should not be prohibitive. The benefits of Protection of Title outweigh any costs.

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

Having a qualified competent workforce is far more cost effective than a non qualified person carrying out substandard work.

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 electrical industry, like many others in the construction sector has a very low level of women and ethnic minority entrants. There is a whole host of reasons for this and we are working hard to encourage more women and others into the industry. As noted in an earlier answer having Electrician noted as a profession would encourage those from underrepresented groups to apply to become Electricians. It would raise the status and increase the talent pool for employers.

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

I cannot see where there would be a negative impact. For those working as Electricians with no qualifications there is already a suitable Scheme in place to support them to gain a formal qualification and an SJIB Grade card.

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.

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. Our future heating and energy demands, driven by the government's own plans to increase more renewable installations and reduce our carbon footprint means that electricians will play an ever increasing role in delivering on these targets, so we must make sure these installations are done by properly qualified and trained workforce.

General

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

I firmly believe that the Protection of Title for Electricians is the right way to go. Safety is paramount and the comfort from knowing that if you hire an "Electrician" that they must be qualified would boost consumer confidence.