

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:

Time-served Electrician

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

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 do believe that protection of title and recognising electricians and the electrical contracting industry as a whole as professionals is a good idea and a vast leap in the right direction. My concern is that this may pave the way for a monopoly or a money making venture when it could be and perform so much better than that. I believe sufficient protection will have to be carefully considered and consulted upon to ensure that large electrical contracting firms and indeed those companies or organisations are not favoured and the bodies tasked with assessing electricians competency are not jaded by the goal of being a profitable business. I myself have come across shoddy installations not anywhere near acceptable standard carried out by a vast array of different people from the well meaning DIYer to the "scheme registered" both (select and NICEIC) contractors. And have on occasion Where the defects have been extremely dangerous contacted these schemes to report the findings have been met with the response of "the actual customer has to complain" and quite frankly this is laughable as the average customer does not know there way around BS7671 and does not know good practice and therefore is not in a place to comment on how well or how poorly the installation has actually been carried out. I believe that some sort of anonymous whistleblowing will have to be built in to this bill to ensure that both electricians and regulatory bodies are kept honest and that the regulatory bodies actually want to pursue these issues and not just ignore them as it would damage their bottom line by taking appropriate action or imposing appropriate sanctions on the offending contractors/persons.

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

Recognised professionalism and a more trustworthy base of electricians and electrical contractors.

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

The fact that everything comes down to money and as mention previously the current regulatory bodies or "schemes" Select&NICEIC are not willing to take action against their members for poor/dangerous practices and or installation(s) at the moment. And how without some sort of built in protection this is not likely to change. And could therefore just turn into these regulatory bodies taking a skim off the profit margins of contractors for no other purpose than being listed somewhere meaningless. (If standards are not enforced) also it may be a good time to suggest that the regulatory bodies make unannounced visits to inspect rather than the current setup in which 3 jobs are selected for the assessors to see. Well it's not like anyone is going to show there assessors and bad jobs is it?

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

Partially supportive

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

I believe the SJIB system is good but I believe that it is not currently impartial enough to succeed with its

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

proposed function/purpose. I believe that it should be independently funded or funded by government or charity and be completely not for profit, have no links to any schemes etc and share no employees etc.

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:

As mentioned previously good idea in theory but protections will have to be built in to avoid abuse of the system and make regulatory bodies as well as electricians and electrical contractors accountable for policing poor installations and practices and maintaining high standards

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

As mentioned impartiality will have to be ensured and as such no organisation out to make profit can benefit from this I.e select or niceic as they do not, in my opinion, currently do enough to keep out the rogues/electricians not installing to bs7671 and building regs and the current assessment system is flawed.

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

Perhaps Being charitably funded by the industry with no special favours for larger contributions

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.

I believe that there is a discriminatory attitude towards trades in general and so by proxy there is a discriminatory attitude towards anyone with a protected characteristic working in the industry. I also firmly believe that there is a sizeable section of the population that believes that trades are underhanded and do not contribute to the economy etc believing that the prices charged for jobs is too high, thinking that the money isn't being spent on training, CPD, tools and equipment and the correct insurances to trade legally and responsibly

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

By retaining impartiality

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.

I believe that the system for registration is broadly ready to go and that only minor tweaks are needed in favour of impartiality and accountability. Such as actually stopping rogue contractors/electricians trading without re-education or further training to avoid them doing the same thing again and potentially putting peoples lives in danger

General

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

No other than that impartiality is a must.