

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

Commercial organisation (company, business)

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).

Electrical Contractor. Experience in working in domestic premises since 1996.

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).

Stirling Electrical Services 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.

We have very good experience of working in domestic and commercial properties. We have been horrified at times witnessing and also having to repair so called electrical work that has been carried out as DIY but more worryingly by individuals working in a commercial sense, either as an unskilled person or part of a group of "tradesman" eg builders. Only recently we surveyed an upcoming kitchen refurbishment and on viewing the proposed works the customer had removed the plasterboard walls to expose the existing cables from a previous kitchen refurbishment carried out by a builder and his "electrician". The scene we witnessed was horrifying. There was exposed live connections and multiple cable joins using inappropriate methods all hidden behind walls out of the way so that no one could see them. This was extremely dangerous especially in a kitchen where power consumption is large. There was no doubt that this work was carried out by a person not qualified with up to date electrical qualifications or because there was no mandatory electrical requirements such as certification or register required, the work was carried out cheaply resulting in a potentially dangerous situation.

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

An increase in accountability for those carrying out electrical work which would mean the standard of electrical installation would improve which ultimately leads to a safer electrical installation for the consumer. It would mean that those carrying out electrical would have to have had up to date electrical training and qualifications within a certain timeframe - eg up to date training and qualifications within the last 5 years and every 5 years thereafter. There are too many electricians carrying out work who qualified 20 years ago but are not required to maintain training or qualifications, so they can be carrying out work to past regulations and not to the continually updated electrical regulations which are published frequently to improve safety standards.

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

None. There are registers of recently trained and qualifications available eg SJIB/SELECT/NICEIC that these can be amended easily to accommodate a new mandatory register of electricians. Additional customer costs would be minimal as these registers already exist but a PR campaign would be required to update consumers on new mandatory register. The only disadvantage to the proposed Bill is to those individuals who are unwilling to train properly as an electrician, to those that carry out electrical work who are not qualified and not even an electrician and to those who will not update their electrical training or qualifications regularly - it is these individuals that would rightly have to train, qualify and register and that is how we improve and maintain crucial electrical safety for consumers.

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 is required for electricians and the other registers to continue for companies eg SELECT and NICIEC. A single register for electricians though must be mandatory and it must be mandatory to have up to date training and qualifications - eg within last 5 years and every 5 years thereafter.

The single register through must be fully legal and binding and consequences placed on individuals and perhaps consumers who continually not abide by using electricians on the single register.

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:

Electricians train for at least 4-5 years to qualify, we then have to continually train and qualify to the new regulations that are published every few years. This is hard work , it is time consuming but it is necessary so that individuals carrying out electrical work do so in a safe and proper manner. Our trade is continually be undermined and consumer safety is being put at risk by non-electrical or non-qualified individuals being able to carry out electrical work with not checks on how they understand or carry out such work. This is dangerous to consumers.

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 only increase to consumers or individuals would be to those ones unwilling at present to pay for proper qualified electricians and who looking to get electrical work carried out cheaply by anyone who says they can do electrical work. For those already paying legitimate electricians and companies extra cost would be minimal if at all.

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

Utilise existing registers, make those registers mandatory and use money saved for PR campaign and enforcing the new register. This way through time the standard of electrical installation and consumer safety would improve.

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.

There would be no negative impact at all from this Bill on the above.

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

N/A

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.

Existing registers exist and so many electricians already abide by the rules of up to date training and qualifications. This is about delivering and improving consumer safety standards. The only negative economic impact would be to those individuals who are carrying out electrical work and are untrained and not qualified and we do not want these individuals within the electrical industry unless they commit to training and qualifications and making sure the worker they carry out for consumer is installed and safe to the latest electrical regulations.

General

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

No