

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:

I am currently employed as a Technical Services Adviser

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).

Stuart McKelvie IEng MIET

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 at present. Apprentices complete an intense SQA qualification and on the completion of the modern apprentice programme can be compromised by those that call themselves electricians and putting the industry at risk. If you want a skilled profession, then protection of title is the way forward

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

I personally see sub standard work regularly by people calling themselves electricians and endangering the public with inappropriate work being carried out. Reducing the number of incidents and fires and adding safeguards to the general public.

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

Some may say that this would incur additional costs to be regulated, however the SJIB have been operating a robust system which could be enveloped into this scheme

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 portal similar to the existing well utilised and organised SJIB model would have the provision and security that someone calling themselves an electrician was qualified and competent to carry out 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 would belt and brace the profession's reputation status by restricting unskilled or semi-skilled . people are amazed to find out that anyone can call themselves an electrician and no rules are in place. poor standards of work is unacceptable.

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 existing SJIB framework is used costs would be prohibitive

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

Data on qualifications in the industry suggest an association between higher qualifications and higher pay (and therefore costs). This can be read in two ways. It represents a cost to society in the sense that regulated tradesmen charge more to cover the cost of their training and those unable or unwilling to gain qualifications are excluded from the market – in other words the new system acts as a 'barrier to entry' that drives up costs.

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 has a significantly higher employment for males. the role of Electrician as a protected title and implication a profession marrying along other competing protected roles will lead to

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greater interest and more women joining the industry which would be a significant advantage. 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?

It is important to get the message about regulation as wide as possible and the industry and the government would need to work together to get information out as soon and as widely as possible. It's important to manage any extra costs or red tape carefully so that there is no significant increase in either. Thus, using the existing scheme via the SJIB would minimise any such large increases.

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.

Our future heating and other 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?

The case for action is overwhelming. Many electricians are fully trained and operate to the highest of standards and do a good and safe job wherever they work. You wouldn't expect anything less. However whilst most of the practising electricians do hold qualifications, quite a number do not and to save lives and protect the property its vital that regulation is introduced.