

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:

Self employed Electrical Contractor

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).

Alistair Grant Electrical

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.

I am very concerned about how much work out there is hidden and which presents a real danger to people's safety and the safety of buildings.

The complexity of the electrical work and the regulations which surround it, are such that untrained or semi-skilled people will not be able to do jobs properly. I think this trend is only going to continue.

Electricians are trained to do work safely and efficiently. We should not see our industry standards undermined by unqualified or part qualified people claiming to be "electricians" and putting lives at risk.

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

We owe it to householders to ensure our profession delivers safer buildings and protects them from harm. Serious and often hidden faults left behind by the semi-skilled or untrained will decline. This will improve standards by deterring the unqualified and semi-skilled

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

It might be a bit more expensive, but we already have a scheme which does a lot of what's needed - the SJIB register. Can we build on this?

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

This is the right way forward as it gives a single reference point which will be easily accessible.

A single register would mean that contracts could be let to those known to be qualified to a standard and clients could check that this was the case.

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 will not by itself stop all bad workmanship or fraudulent trading, but it sends a clear message to the public, the workforce, builders, clients and the courts that this is what we all want. It will help everyone understand that the expectation is for safe, reliable, good quality workmanship.

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

It really all depends on how the register is set up. If we use existing frameworks like the SJIB, then the costs should not 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)?

Netting off costs against benefits, our research suggests a cautious estimate of net benefits to Scotland from proper regulation of electricians is c. £58million. This monetary figure includes all of the benefits from higher electrical standards, such as fewer injuries and deaths, better functioning installations, less need for call backs or for poor/unsafe work to be repaired leading to improved customer satisfaction.

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 numbers required to enter the industry to maintain and indeed grow the workforce, bearing in mind the

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?

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.

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.

Yes. 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. Having a qualified and trained workforce is a real benefit to our country. Electricity is more and more important as we begin to see more electric vehicles being used, our homes being heated by electricity rather than gas. Therefore, regulation will actually become more rather than less important going forward.

General

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

Survey evidence shows that the public has little or no idea how to check that an electrician has qualifications. Most people only use an electrician's service once in a while and it's quite understandable that they have no clear idea where to start. Unfortunately some bogus tradesmen rely on this and present false credentials. We need to protect people from the unscrupulous.