

# Proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Member's Bill to ensure policy development and implementation by public bodies is in line with principles of sustainable development and wellbeing by introducing a duty for public bodies to promote these principles and establishing a Commissioner for sustainable development and wellbeing.

The consultation runs from 14 December 2022 to 24 March 2023

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 which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

*No Response*

## 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".)

Member of the public

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 Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).  
(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).

Steven Haigh

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

[REDACTED]

**Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").**

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note, that this question is compulsory.)

Partially supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note, that this question is compulsory.)

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I am definitely supportive. I am only fully supportive if it is more than words on paper

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think legislation is required in order to ensure that we recognise that our society and politics must take seriously the need to put (the many not the few) people and planet before profit, and to redefine a sustainable future for our children and for nature

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'sustainable development' should be defined in legislation?

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the definition should include.**

I am entirely supportive but the legislation must be put into practise and carry accountability. Sustainable development benefits either or both of most people and the planet in the long term, and does as little harm to people or planet as possible.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'wellbeing' should be defined in legislation?

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the definition should include.**

I am definitely supportive with the same qualification as in previous answers re enactment of the legislation

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there should be a Commissioner for sustainable development and wellbeing?

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including any views on what the key functions of the proposed Commissioner should be (see pages 19 to 20 of the consultation document), what model of governance could be adopted (see page 22 to 23), and whether the Commissioner could play a role in strengthening existing duties or legislation.**

Having a Commissioner would ideally address my previously expressed concerns that this is not just words on paper, and would help to ensure that the legislation carries accountability

Q6. What, in your view, should the title of the proposed Commissioner be?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I am not sure. Perhaps she should be called either the Wellbeing Commissioner (uninspiring and open to accusations of 'woke') or something like The People's Commissioner (?much better)

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there is a need for duties for public bodies to promote sustainable development and wellbeing in policy development and implementation?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response including views on any barriers to implementation of these duties and on how the effectiveness of implementation could be measured.**

Surely it is only reasonable that policies support sustainable development and wellbeing? The sadness is that this is necessary. The main barrier is likely to be the short termism which is almost inevitable in both local and national UK politics.

## Financial Implications

Q8. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

some increase in costs

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.**

If something is to be measured and there is a Commissioner then there are inevitable costs, but here we are returning to our usual position of making short term financial costs the driver rather than the cost to wellbeing of the majority of people and the planet. In the longer term sustainable development will hugely reduce even financial costs.

## Equalities

Q9. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your response and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

Sustainable development and wellbeing aims to benefit a much wider spectrum of people than our present economic approach

## Sustainability

Q10. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? (If you do not have a view then skip to next question)

Please explain the reasons for your response, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

If the proposed Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill does not achieve these things it will be a gross failure of putting this into practise as these are surely the aims of the bill?

## General

Q11. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

I wish you all the best in progressing this