

# 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".)

Academic with expertise 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 work mainly in Wales in wellbeing and sustainable development areas and with the Wellbeing of future generations act which I think although still developing in many ways provides a valuable framework to work with and embed sustainable development at the heart of everything, so interested to see Scotlands take on this.

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).

Rhiannon Jane Raftery

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.)

Fully supportive

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

I have experience of the Welsh Wellbeing of future generations act and although nothing is perfect it's a starting point to shape and develop over time and an important step to take which shows a country is serious about sustainable development and wellbeing of its population now and in the future.

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.

Yes sadly unless embedded in mandatory legislation it is unlikely to happen

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

Fully supportive

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

It needs defining carefully and appropriately but without definition it is unlikely to be useful or effective.

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

Fully supportive

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

If you are going for legislation then you need to define it clearly so that people understand it and will hopefully engage and support it.

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

Fully 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.**

I am favourably impressed by the role Sophie Howe has shaped as the first commissioner and the achievements made especially with the transport strategy which I was involved in consultations on. I suggest looking carefully at the remit -for me independence of the Commissioner is important but the budget provision and mechanisms for implementing the act across public bodies probably needs to be more robust and have sufficient budget to provide more support. The commissioner has achieved a strong and positive public profile but definitions and mechanisms of delivery need to be transparent so that people can see how public money is spent and what it achieves. The Welsh act is quite complicated and

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

some may have difficulty in understanding the 7 goals0 the how and the 5 ways of working the why - there is work to be done here from my experience of working with public bodies and community organisations that some concepts are difficult and need greater clarity but much has been achieved with the resources available and provide a useful guide to observe and improve on -change to meet specific Scottish needs, there shouldn't be a one size fits all. The recruitment of an appropriate commissioner is key, they should be Scottish with strong experience on the sustainable development and wellbeing area.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I hate clunky titles conciseness and clarity are key but I think it must be clear that a Commissioner of Sustainable Development and Wellbeing has a duty to protect the right of future generations to a good life within planetary boundaries is important and it will be key to get young people supporting both the act and the role of the commissioner even perhaps having a youth commissioner playing a role.

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.**

It won't ve delivered as well as it needs to be otherwise, the barriers are austerity, cuts, essentially it's about having the funding to deliver but people need also to learn to be creative in making it work. Measured through outcomes and their impact in an annual report on the state of wellbeing and sustainable development.

## 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?

Don't know

**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.**

Given resources will be limited you have to work with what you have so I haven't filled in a significant increase because realistically the budget will be limited and you will have to work out how you can deliver without needing large increases, there will also be a need to demonstrate positive outcomes. A big budget would be good- but is unlikely so you have to decide what's possible The Commissioners office needs to engage and excite people and demonstrate it can save money- growing more food in communities, community energy schemes, community led housing projects- growing evidence base shows these can deliver better for less and that a new kind of good life can provide a better life for the many rather than the few It will need a new positive narrative the what is to what if scenario people need hope- it's not happening much at the moment so tools like narrative, story and examples of what communities are achieving are essential to get people believing this is important and something they want in their place.

## 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.

This act needs to be part of the toolkit for a just transition, demonstrating the benefits of new jobs in retrofitting, urban growing and food projects to make food banks unnecessary over time are all key parts of implementing this. Equality is essential, those at the bottom of the pile have most to gain if this can deliver improved wellbeing, quality jobs, skills training, etc. it has to provide positive scenarios that people can see are delivering, leaving people behind in the way that existing policies in the wider UK are not an option if we are to succeed in providing solutions to our interconnected crises- climate, ecological, social, economic, political (democracy, I think the Commissioner should be connected to the grassroots projects as well as to the public sector- engaging communities - Scottish Govt already funds SCCAN and groups like these and related ones and Community Development Trusts are key stakeholders to ensure fairness and engagement across all sections of society.

## 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?

Putting sustainability at the heart of the public sector and at the heart of communities is the only way to do all the above the Welsh act only involves the public sector- obviously it's harder to make it mandatory for the private sector but involving and empowering communities at grassroots level is both possible and essential. communities. I think it hugely increases the impact and positive outcomes both now and for the future. Currently many people feel disenfranchised, anxious, hopeless engaging through grassroots organisers is a potential gamechanger and offers more for less through people and communities delivering

## 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 think it needs to be shown to be a bill for the benefit of communities now and for the future something that can if implemented structured properly deliver a life that works for more people and allows us to live within planetary boundaries with a better way of life that enhances wellbeing makes people happier and healthier. It needs to be something that people can believe in. Scotland has so many great community projects, leaders, etc.etc, they need to be engaged involved in supporting this, In Wales it seems to still

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be public sector and hit a lot of barriers so look and learn from their experience- things take time. The next commissioner is from the community sector former CEO of Cwmpas Welsh Cooperatives who has been very successful especially in disadvantaged communities. I think bringing the community sector into the equation and empowering communities is a key thing to do.