

# 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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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).

Jeanne Ceridwen Christie

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

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.**

In my work I see a lot that is detrimental to the well-being of our country and this needs to be addressed, by active concern and commitment.

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, as at present public bodies seem to be less accountable than they need to be despite the offices of the Public Services Ombudsman, whose office looks at how the public bodies have carried out their duties rather than at the moral and welfare aspects of their decisions.

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.**

In Scotland we pride ourselves on being an enlightened, caring and supportive nation. In the present climate this is not being upheld by legislation, which appears to hamper sustainable development and the wellbeing of our communities. Trust in councils and health boards has been eroded because of short-term planning that is actively detrimental to well-being, for example in the Isle of Barra where our medical and care services are being reduced and in some cases removed (our care home).

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.**

I have answered this on the previous page. Wellbeing is not something many people focus on, and they just continue to accept the reduction of services and the belittling/undermining of people's expectations of our society. The concept of wellbeing needs to be enshrined in legislation.

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.**

The Scottish government does not have appear to have responsibility for acting to modify the behaviour of local councils and health boards. The Ombudsman's role is limited. The Commissioner should have

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

powers not to guide but to direct, and powers to remove from office those who resist goals of sustainability and well-being.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

What you have suggested sounds fine to me. It has dignity and bearing.

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.**

This duty has been sadly lacking so far here. I imagine that this is mainly due to short-term and project funding, but it seems to me that the will to do otherwise has been eroded and that any aspirations towards a hopeful future have been eroded. When public bodies lose responsibility for promoting - and ensuring - sustainability and well-being, we will be in a sorry state. We're there now, when money comes before people - again, there are examples here in the care home being removed and our last remaining village school to be swallowed up in a hub that the council and health board appear to have fallen into envisaging through lack of any other way to provide financially for our needs. Any project funding will serve their turn, irrespective of negative impact. And why only this island? Irresponsible, uncaring, inefficient, unfair. A commissioner such as you are aiming for could oversee this sort of thing.

## 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.**

I would imagine that conforming to new legislation might hit small businesses hard, simply because everything always does, but small businesses are what we need in remote and rural communities, and some subsidisation would probably be needed. However, in the long-term, the welfare of these islands would increase, and other positive effects follow on from that.

## 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.

Our elderly people here would be cared for properly if our public bodies were not allowed to get away with their harsh money-saving plans and their incompetent use of existing funds. Young people would benefit because all sorts of positive employment would open up for them. All would benefit from the positive impact of participating in a healthy and caring 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?

An arrangement to participate at least on the periphery of Europe (since Brexit is done and dusted) would open the door to federal arrangements that would have benefits continent-wide. I visited Northern Ireland in the seventies and then again early this century - the economic improvement was visible everywhere. Let us make the most of our contacts with countries that are, for instance, already paying a basic living income, not our horrendously complicated system of benefit. Let us learn from models already in operation, in other countries. Let us send our young people abroad to learn from these - as once our former colonies sent theirs to us.

## 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)?

Yes - "Devo Max" needs to be developed in line with all of this and we need to break free from the current xenophobic mania in part of the UK - it's unhealthy and eats away at well-being, from the core. We need more power in Scotland. For instance, since the Scottish government took over disabled benefits, those in receipt of them have been able to stop feeling like criminals. The other thing is Scotland's energy. We could do so much with sustainable energy, if legislation and funded communities to set up projects that would help climate change.