

# 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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).**

Winning Scotland works with partners to develop confidence and resilience in children and young people.

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

**If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):**

Should be attributed to the 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).

Winning Scotland

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.**

We're very supportive of the principle of this Bill, the key will be its implementation. It's extremely important that the definitions of wellbeing and sustainability are clearly defined. It would be beneficial once the definitions are chosen to consult with us again to ensure they are valid and we're in agreement with regards to their meaning. It will also be important to review these definitions and the legislation itself (should it be passed) on occasion, to ensure they continue to be relevant and valid. They may need tweaking as new/future developments arise.

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.

Legislation will certainly help the aims of this Bill to be given priority in terms of focus and implementation. To support the legislation, it would also be good to ensure wider awareness and acceptance of the proposed aims of this Bill are made available to the general public, particularly in relation to the definitions of sustainability and wellbeing used within it.

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 is clear from the consultation document that sustainable development (SD) needs to be clearly defined in legislation to allow for a greater, cohesive understanding on what we mean by SD and limit any potential for confusion or varied interpretation.

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.**

Same as was the case for sustainable development. In fact, defining wellbeing might be even more complicated due to the various components of wellbeing, many of which are discussed in the consultation document.

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**

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

**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 someone whose remit encompasses ensuring the aims in this proposed Bill being achieved, upheld, and where required reviewed and amended is essential. It's also vital they work alongside, support and are supported by other Commissioners, as stated in the consultation document.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

If the definitions are developed effectively and clearly encompass what is meant by sustainable development and wellbeing, respectively, then The Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Commissioner Scotland should be an appropriate title for this 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's key that sustainable development and wellbeing are included in policy development and implementation, from the very initial stages, rather than as an add on further into the process.

## 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.**

There will be financial implications connected to this, some of which are mentioned within the consultation document and others which may be unforeseen at this time. It's also important to note that the nature of such a proposal which focuses on sustainability and the needs of current and future generations is likely to be more costly than short-term initiatives, but also likely to have greater reward (in terms of impact on wellbeing and the economy) in the long run. So, what might be perceived as the more expensive route now should benefit this and future generations in the future, and without having had a negative impact on current generation's needs, or on our planet.

## 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.

Such a proposal if implemented correctly should benefit all individuals in Scotland, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, ability etc. In fact, if delivered as stated in the proposed consultation document, it should benefit those who are marginalised or currently disadvantaged the most, by hopefully ensuring that their wellbeing needs are being met and continue to be met, and helping to close any gaps, ensuring equity in relation to such needs.

## 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?

Yes, such a proposal could impact all of these.

By ensuring sustainable development and wellbeing are clearly defined, and the implementation of the proposed aims of the Bill are carried out effectively, as well as being constantly reviewed, to ensure the aims are being achieved, should help with this. It would be important to avoid any confusion, to ensure people don't view the proposal negatively or dismiss it altogether.

## 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)?

It would be good to be kept in the loop with regards to the progress of the consultation process, the proposed Bill application, and in relation to the potential definitions of sustainable development and wellbeing.