

# 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).**

Woodland Wakeup (WW) is a dynamic CIC which aims to 'rewild' childhood and reconnect communities with the natural world to boost wellbeing. WW promotes spending time in nature as a preventative healthcare solution to empower individuals and families to take ownership of their wellbeing and form healthy life habits. Sessions are run for kids, families and adults in local green spaces and are tailored to meet the needs and interests of different groups.

WW is an organisation made from people working in the outdoor sector including an experienced Teacher. From undertaking a myriad of research in a variety of areas to do with the benefits of outdoors and the impact it can have, as well as observations and collecting data and feedback from sessions over the past 4 years, we are aware of the huge impact of nature-connectedness on individuals, families and communities and we would expect this to be on societies too.

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).

Natasha Kater  
Woodland Wakeup

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 strongly believe nature-connectedness is a basic need and the first step in sustainability and development. Until there's a basic definition for these terms, it is difficult to progress any development policies in that area. Policies would then enable us to protect our natural world.

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.

We absolutely believe legislation is required because nature-connectedness is a basic human need, and thus the first step in sustainability and development.

To reiterate our view, legislation would then enable policies to be built on the recognition that nature education and nature-connectedness is a basic need and first step in our development.

Legislation would enable us to protect our natural world.

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.**

Meeting the basic needs of humans without causing harm or damage to the natural world.

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

Do not wish to express a view

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

The extensive variety of positive effects and the impact of nature education and nature-connectedness is widely acknowledged and accepted across societies. Therefore, for us at Woodland Wakeup, we believe it is essential that well-being should be defined in legislation, as the legislation would enable policies to be developed upon that recognition.

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.**

Woodland wakeup is fully supportive of all the key functions proposed.

In terms of the model, the former is a more attractive model of governance simply due to it offering an enhanced level of corporate responsibility through a traditional board.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Commissioner of sustainable development and well-being.

We need an individual with a specific interest in the area of sustainable development and well-being to uphold legislation that is introduced into the field.

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.**

Woodland Wakeup believes sustainable development should be a priority in all sectors and would help Scotland to adapt to the challenges that individuals, families, communities, societies and the country as a whole are facing in terms of the impact of nature deficit.

It would allow us to protect our natural world, and the needs of future generations.

Considerations will need to be given to financial, social, cultural and organisational structures to ensure these are all appropriately equipped to support sustainable development and organisations should be held accountable if they are not following SD practices.

## 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?

a significant reduction 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.**

It's realistic to consider there will be an initial outlay, however the impact would offset these, and we would go as far to say long-term it would be anticipated that costs would reduce.

It is acknowledged and experienced by many, if not all, sectors across Scotland that funding is reducing

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?

quite significantly whilst demand for services is increasing considerably. Thus, less resources but more intensive workloads doesn't make for positive outcomes and experiences for anyone (service users, service providers, communities, societies, etc).  
Our belief is that nature education and nature-connectedness is and should be recognised as vital for healthy human development, and therefore if this was supported by the strength of legislation and policies, our experience shows us that our work could contribute to a reduction in costs for multiple NHS services (mental and physical health), pharmacies, schools, etc. From our perspective of increasing wellbeing through the lens of nature-connectedness and the fact that we see this as the first step to sustainable development, we strongly believe NHS services, for example, could save a significant amount of money in terms of diagnosing, treatment options, and ongoing support. We believe it's likely that many people are unintentionally being misdiagnosed with various conditions that could in fact be alleviated by gaining a sufficient level of nature-connectedness.

## 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.

Without legislation and policies this is a major contributing factor to inequality as things stand just now in the area of sustainable development and wellbeing. Woodland Wakeup is driven by the firm belief that our work in nature education is meeting a basic human need which is being largely ignored by current developments in mainstream society. It's not a luxury, or something we may or may not be able to access, it should be considered a birthright. Thus, new laws would protect everyone, especially those considered most vulnerable in our societies at present. We cannot see any negative effects that the proposal could have on anyone.

## 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?

We believe yes to all of the above for reasons set out in other answers.

New laws would impact positively on protecting our natural world. At Woodland Wakeup, this is our driving force - to connect people with nature as young people (and adults) nowadays are becoming arguably increasingly locked in a digital world. In turn, our environments would improve; air quality, water quality, etc, with the knock on effect being improved physical and mental health for people, improved social and cultural experiences etc.

## 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)?

Good luck getting your bill passed.