

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).

Keep Scotland Beautiful is your charity for Scotland's environment. Our vision is a clean, green, and sustainable Scotland. We aim to change behaviour to improve our environment, the quality of people's lives, their wellbeing, and the places they care about. Working across Scotland, we help to combat climate change and nature loss, reduce litter and waste, and to protect and enhance our rich heritage. Our work supports Scotland to progress the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are members of Scottish Environment Link, and also support the response they have submitted. We are also founding and steering group members of the SDG Network Scotland and supported the 2021 open letter to the Scottish Party Leaders calling for such a Bill to be brought forward.

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).

Keep Scotland Beautiful

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.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is fully supportive of the general principles and ambitions of the proposed Bill to strengthen the legislative and policy context in relation to wellbeing and sustainable development. There are, however, details relating to the three proposals as set out that require further clarity and consideration.

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, we believe that legislation is necessary in order to achieve the aims of the Bill.

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.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is fully supportive of 'sustainable development' being defined in legislation subject to this definition being robustly and satisfactorily agreed upon. In alignment with the Scottish Environment LINK response, we will not, at this stage, offer a proposed definition, but central to any definition that would secure further support should be the concepts of environmental sustainability, of living within planetary boundaries, including in relation to the mitigation of climate change and ensuring the protection and recovery of nature. There should be clear links to achieving the UN SDGs, and the linked National Outcomes.

We would also expect there to be reference within sustainable development that includes an approach to economic development that does not prioritise profit above people and planet and that growth should be achieved in a way that does not deplete but helps maintain and restore the planet's finite natural resources.

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

Wellbeing is not a term that is frequently utilised in legislation (as sustainable development is), however we would be fully supportive of the development of a clear definition.

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.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is fully supportive of the establishment of a Commissioner, however further detail will be needed in relation to functions and powers. For a Commissioner to be effective, the role will require adequate powers to generate real change, and to hold to account Government/public bodies.

As set out by Scottish Environment LINK - greater clarity is needed on the interactions, such as the overlaps and/or complementarity with inter alia Environmental Standards Scotland, the Climate Change Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission. The role should probably be developed, and the powers/functions to be determined, in parallel with the review of environmental governance under the Continuity Act, and take account of the role of Environmental Standards Scotland and the proposals for an Environmental Court or Tribunal.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Keep Scotland Beautiful has no strong opinion on the title of the role, so long as the key functions of the role are appropriate and effective.

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.

Keep Scotland Beautiful is fully supportive of a duty on public bodies where this builds on the existing duties on public bodies rather than adding any additional burden, and would point the reader to the response given to this question by Scottish Environment LINK.

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.

Keep Scotland Beautiful support the response to this question prepared by Scottish Environment LINK.

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.

Should this proposed Bill be taken forward, we believe that there is potential for a positive impact to be made in relation to equalities issues.

Intra- and intergenerational equity forms a key part of achieving sustainable development, and therefore the potential for positive impact is based on this principle.

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?

These outcomes have the potential to be significantly benefited as a result of the proposed Bill, and given the aims of this proposed Bill, improved sustainability would be a central objective.

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)?

Keep Scotland Beautiful welcome this proposed Bill, and look forward to the opportunity to contribute to its further development, should proposals be taken forward.