

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).

Paths for All was established in 1996. It is a partnership comprising 30 national partner organisations. It is a company limited by guarantee and a recognised charity in Scotland.

Our vision: Scotland is a walking nation. Everyone has the opportunity to be active every day, creating a happier, healthier and greener Scotland. Paths for All champions walking in Scotland. We encourage less active people to walk more, support communities to develop welcoming and safe routes and promote active travel for everyday journeys.

Our work supports the delivery of the Active Scotland Delivery Plan, National Walking Strategy, The Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and the Long-term Vision for Active Travel in Scotland, through community and workplace health walking, path network development and active travel policy development. Our funders include the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland.

Background on the work of the Partnership can be found on our website: www.pathsforall.org.uk

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).

Paths for All

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.)

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

We broadly support the aims to:

- place new definitions of sustainable development and wellbeing into legislation
- establish a Wellbeing and Sustainable Development

Commissioner

- introduce new public duties in relation to sustainable development and wellbeing based on these new definitions

Our support would depend on the detail of the definitions and how the proposals implemented.

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 agree with the case for a separate piece of legislation setting out definitions and public duties in relation to sustainable development and wellbeing would strengthen that focus and build on existing legislation. As we understand it well being does not appear in any legislation in Scotland as yet. Clarifying the definition of sustainable development would be useful as this has become muddled - eg references to "sustainable economic development" - which is not the same thing.

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.

The definition of sustainable development would be useful as this has become muddled - eg references to "sustainable economic development" - which is not the same thing. This would be an opportunity to define it in the current context - it is some time since the concept was adopted and people's understanding of it can vary.

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.

Our understanding is that wellbeing does not appear in Scottish legislation as yet - it would be helpful to clarify what it means as it is being increasingly adopted as a concept. A common understanding would be useful.

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

Partially 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.

We broadly agree with the case for a Commissioner to embed the principles of sustainable development and wellbeing across the public sector. We can see how high-profile interventions by a Commissioner in areas including transport, planning and housing would ensure that Government decision making takes into account sustainability principles and wellbeing.

Our support would depend on the detail of how this is implemented.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

No Response

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.

We believe such duties would help promote sustainable development and wellbeing.

The impact would depend on how strongly worded these duties are.

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.

This is not our area of expertise.

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.

No Response

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?

The proposal would, in our view, have a positive impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

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)?

No Response