

# 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".)

Member of the public

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation.**

I am working in Community Engagement in Aberdeen City looking at building community action in response to Climate Change this covers all areas of community life and the associated Government decisions. Having followed Sophie Howes work for some time I am keen to see Scotland benefit from the longterm vision this Bill could generate. I am an Engineer, previously from the Oil & Gas Sector and have studied Change Management and Environment (IEMA) I feel we need to take urgent action to address the Climate Crisis.

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).

Danielle Lisa Dale

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.**

This Bill has the potential to move policy and decision making into much longer term mindset, improve our chances of addressing the Climate Crisis and make sustainability a core/clear concept in politics.

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, governance is going to be required as part of the many solutions required to address climate change and resource depletion as these are large and complex systemic problems requiring a significant level of change in the way that our society is structured.

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.**

I feel it is critical that we acknowledge the holistic implications in the definition to help society move away from the economic growth focus. The SIDA definition and principles turns the focus onto living within in planetary boundaries, this is a good way to redirect policy.

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.**

The Carnegie way of identifying of the elements within wellbeing, aids understanding of the complexity of this term.

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.**

This has been proven to be successful in Wales. Specific examples being the transport strategy changes and education reform.

The Commissioner needs to have adequate powers such that the wellbeing of future generations is given

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

more importance than the short-term gains of Scotland's economy.

The Commissioner's role to challenge the status quo is key, challenge the short term decision making. The ability to cross public sectors and instigate collaboration or even connect different parts of the public service has the potential to trigger system change that is needed to break the current situation. Sophie Howe has set up several methods of leadership mentoring and cross department collaboration which have contributed to the changes seen in Wales.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Commissioner for Future Generations

Its clearly different and generates a future focus mindset - be hard to argue against the recommendations of someone with this title.

Commissioner for Future Generations puts the focus on longer term policy and vision for the future.

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 is surprising that this is not already the case!

This is urgent - human behaviour needs to change to address the climate crisis, government policies need to steer this.

Barriers to this are all the reasons why its not been addressed adequately so far I.e. miss managed, short term, economic growth obsessed leadership. We are running out of time to tackle the climate crisis so we must take bolder more impactful decisions and stop putting it off.

Having the right leadership in roles of significance is imperative, those who are able to comprehend the scale of the situation, bold enough to challenge and skilled enough to bring others with them on the journey.

Re measuring, as with the Welsh examples of transport strategy and education reform there has been effective changes made as a result of their Act and Commissioners work. I believe it will become clear how effective the duties when change starts to happen.

There is still a huge lack of understanding/apathy of the climate crisis, we must raise awareness at all levels of society of the action needed. Create governance that instigates change, empower community led change and encourage innovation for solutions.

## 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

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?

**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.**

Dealing with the Climate Crisis is paramount, getting the governance and Commissioner (& team) in place and impactful needs to be adequately funded.

There needs to be a redirecting of funds to address the challenges we currently face across the public services and the planet as a whole. In order to deliver the National Outcomes and create a Scotland that is sustainable and has high levels of wellbeing, we must invest.

## 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.

This Bill will contribute positively to all members of society now and in the future.

The only negative impact I see would be on the "selfish" in society, as this Bill and the mindset shift needed to address the challenges of Scotland, will require everyone to be more selfless, more accepting, more collaborative and more compassionate to the planet and all who live here.

## 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?

This Bill would have a very positive impact in these areas.

## 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