

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

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

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).

[REDACTED]

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

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.

No Response

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether 'sustainable development' should be defined in legislation?

Partially supportive

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

Further clarity over the use of the term 'sustainable development' is needed. This definition should be clear and consistently used in other legislation. Any such definition must address and to seek to achieve all of the aspects of sustainable development, and not to start by assuming that one aspect can be exchanged for another.

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

Partially supportive

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

It is essential that there is clarity on the terminology of, and use of, 'wellbeing'. We believe that any overarching definition of wellbeing in Scottish legislation must ensure that it adequately encompasses all factors that affect us and how we function in society, and the subjective experiences we have throughout our lives. This should include individual, community and national wellbeing.

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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.

The proposed function(s) and remit of the role outlined appears to be a sensible and proportionate mechanism for strengthening existing duties and achieving collaboration across Public Sector Bodies.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

We have no strong view on this.

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?

Partially 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.

Acting sustainably requires public bodies to routinely balance their decisions and consider the wide range of impacts of their actions. Understanding the different aspects of sustainable development is key, as different public bodies have different remits.

Over the past 3 years [REDACTED] has been focused on supporting [REDACTED] through the pandemic and then to shift to recovery from the pandemic. A number of existing workstreams were paused to allow for this focus. As the sector continues to recover, we have been working with the system to consider long-term planning, as well as understanding new ways of working of our staff, which will inform our operational model and allow us to identify opportunities for policy development as well as public service reform in the coming years.

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 are some concerns regarding the capacity of organisations to embed and implement the sustainable development and wellbeing in policy development. For smaller Public Sector Bodies, where it is not cost effective to employ experts in this area, clear high-quality guidance is vital. It is also important that information and guidance evolves to reflect Public Sector Bodies experiences and challenges in responding to this area.

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?

No Response

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