

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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

Teacher with professional recognition in Learning for Sustainability and former chartered civil engineer working as a transport planner.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):

[REDACTED]

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.)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I have previously answered from what you can do in schools perspective - this response is about society. People in society don't know what sustainability is and the 3 pillars. Also from a health point of view unless we have a healthier society we are not going to release the burden on the NHS or have more people engaging in employment.

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.

I think that legislation is needed to make things actually happen. The Scottish Government was one of the early adopters of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 but barely anybody in the general population actually know what they are all about.

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 general population don't know what sustainability means therefore to have it formally defined would be useful and feed into UN SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities.

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.

Similar to sustainable development a lot of people talk about wellbeing but what does it actually mean. A formalised definition would allow a structure to be developed to benefit society.

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.

As wellbeing and sustainability thread through a number of governmental areas then a Commissioner

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

would be able to develop the links between departments and ensure consistency of understanding and policy developments.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Wellbeing and Sustainability Commissioner is probably the best term.

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.

In order for society to change we need a better understanding of sustainability and by all relevant public bodies raising awareness. The SDG's are a great way of having a visual representation across all sectors. Frequently it will make what they are doing already explicit. Different areas of operation may begin to make the connection across their sectors. This will feed through to the general public and also link with wellbeing. If people can see the link with their personal health and where their food comes from and their health and the impact that has on society through the NHS and people being active members of society.

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 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.

Initially there would be a cost promoting sustainability and wellbeing and making the SDG's visible in society. I also believe that the Commissioner should be involved in promoting people growing their own food so there are costs associated with this sort of scheme. However in the long term down the line as people's health improves and they become fitter to work and be economically active with less days lost to ill health and the burden is somewhat lifted from the NHS the situation should improve and save society money.

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.

I think that this law will see to try to make things better for all sectors of society as Sustainability and the SDG's include everyone. We also as a society for everyone to have quality wellbeing.

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?

As with the previous answer I think that this law will see to try to make things better for all sectors of society as Sustainability and the SDG's include everyone. We also as a society for everyone to have quality wellbeing. Especially set with the backdrop of the climate crisis.

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)?

As with the previous answer I think that this law will see to try to make things better for all sectors of society as Sustainability and the SDG's include everyone. We also as a society for everyone to have quality wellbeing. Especially set with the backdrop of the climate crisis.