

# Proposed Domestic Building Environmental Standards (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to introduce new minimum environmental design standards for all new-build housing to meet the Passivhaus standard or a Scottish equivalent in order to improve energy efficiency and thermal performance.

The consultation runs from 4 May 2022 to 27 July 2022

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.

## 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

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".)

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

Retired Local Authority Technical Officer (Housing) with experience of carrying out energy surveys.

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).

George Love

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.

**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 am a co-ordinator of a science group in the U3a with an interest in climate change. The proposals to adopt the passivhaus standard are a "no-brainer" with regard to reducing our carbon footprint.

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.

Legislation is the only way to improve the poor standard of insulation in our built environment. Builders do not see environmental concerns as a big selling point.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on setting the Passivhaus standard or a Scottish equivalent as the most appropriate new build housing standards to contribute to eradicating fuel poverty?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

The Passivhaus standard is already up and running and its adoption should be relatively straightforward. A group of terraced properties built to the standard have already won the Sterling Prize for Architecture.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view on setting the Passivhaus standard or a Scottish equivalent as the most appropriate new build housing standards to contribute to a reduction in emissions?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

To reduce our emissions we have to reduce our demand for energy, as well as using different sources of energy. Better insulation and construction standards are key to delivery of this reduction.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of the process set out to ensure that the new standards are met in all new build housing? (see pages 14 to 16 in the consultation document)

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including your views on how effective the process would be in removing the 'performance gap' and on how the proposed verification process might work in practice.**

It would be up to local Building Standards departments to decide whether they recruit staff trained in the verification process, train their existing staff or use an accredited external consultant.

Q6. What could be the market effects of the introduction of this proposal?

The immediate effects would probably be an increase in the price of new housing as builders adapt to new practices. However, there is no lack of profitability with most of these firms. Market forces dictate that they would try to keep these costs to a minimum and they might even try to use the improved energy efficiency as a selling point.

## Financial Implications

Q7. 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 answer, including whom 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.**

As per my previous answer, the House Builders will incur costs which they will pass on to their customers. Local Authorities will also incur costs in adapting to the new legislation. However, it is the house occupant who has the most to gain in terms of less energy use and greater comfort. It is also essential in the attempt to meet our carbon reduction targets. Could some sort of grant be financed from central government ?

## Equalities

Q8. 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 answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

Access to a decent form of shelter is a basic human right. The aim of this legislation is to set standards that are beneficial to society and the environment. There can be little negative impact on individuals.

## Sustainability

Q9. 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 answer, 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 proposal can only have a positive impact on society and the environment. The sooner these proposals are implemented, the quicker we start to reduce the demand for energy (from whatever source) and help meet our carbon reduction commitments.

## General

Q10. 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)?

Given that the Passivhaus standard is internationally accepted and used as a basis for legislation in other countries, I am disappointed that it has taken this long for someone to suggest its adoption in this country. The "Green Party" are meant to be power sharing with the SNP but where are their proposals on this matter ??? I wish you speedy success with this endeavour.