

# 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".)

Member of the public

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**

I have been chair of the Newtonhill, Muchalls and Cammachmore Community Council for the past ten years, but stood down from the post June 2022.

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).

Michael Morgan

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.**

Homes in Scotland have not been constructed with our climate in mind. The designs are poor and the thermal insulation is not fit for purpose. This is still the case with new builds today. The cost of fuel to heat our houses is rising rapidly due to global demand and that situation will not improve - ever. Air-source heat pumps are not suitable for the Scottish climate unless you have an A-rated house. The Swiss have houses that are extremely well insulated such that the internal temperature will change by one or two degrees per day if the outside temperature is either very low or very high, without additional heating or cooling. The

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? Please note that this question is compulsory.

temperature in my house, built in the 1990s with retrofitted loft insulation, will drop by five or ten degrees over a couple of hours if the heating is turned off on a cold day. It doesn't get hot here.

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.

Absolutely. Generally, developers design houses to meet the minimum legal requirements. The houses are then built to the minimum standard that they can get away with if the local authority planning departments are not observing every stage of the build.

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.**

Fuel poverty is a very short-sighted way of looking at the problem. The goal should be to do the right things to save the planet or, at least, keep it habitable for humans.

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

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)

Partially opposed

**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.**

Even with the best will in the world, this will not work. There will be too few verifiers and, given the large sums of money involved in housebuilding, corruption will ensure sub-standard homes will receive certification.

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

Don't know.

## 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?

a significant 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.**

The additional materials will make the homes more expensive to build and, therefore, more expensive to purchase. The savings in fuel costs over time may compensate for the higher initial price. People on low incomes will not be able to afford this and divisions in society will increase.

## 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.

People on low incomes will not be able to afford this and divisions in society will increase.

## 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?

Driving down the demand for fuel will benefit the economy in the long term - decades. Whatever Parliament does, society will never be healthy and just.

## 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)?

It would make a lot of sense to build houses that are prepared for additions like solar roof panels, electric vehicle charging points and emergency generator plug in points. Very easy to build-in, but make for difficult and expensive retrofitting.