

Response ID ANON-V96R-ATGG-T

Submitted to Consultation on Scottish skills requirements for energy efficiency, zero emissions and low carbon heating systems, microgeneration and heat networks for homes

Submitted on 2021-04-30 21:55:56

Questions- Installer skills requirements

1a Do you agree with our proposal to integrate the installer skills matrix into the Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 2030 and Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) installer standards?

Not Answered

1b Do you agree with our recommendation that manufacturer training should be in addition to, not instead of, these skills requirements?

Not Answered

1c If you disagree with these proposals, please let us know why.

Please explain your view:

2 What are your views on the timing for integrating the installer skills matrix into the PAS 2030 and MCS installer standards? What do you think would be a reasonable timescale for the making the skills matrix mandatory in the standards?

Please explain your view:

3 What are your views on how installers can meet these skills requirements, in particular the Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) route?

Please explain your view:

Questions- PAS 2035 requirements for other roles

4 What are your views on the competency requirements for the retrofit coordinator, advisor, assessor, designer and evaluator roles?

Please explain your view:

Questions- Heat networks

5 What are your views on our plans for developing heat network skills? For example are there any gaps in heat network skills that we haven't identified?

Please explain your view:

General questions

6a What impact do you think our skills requirements will have on the energy efficiency, microgeneration and heat networks sector in remote rural and island communities?

Please explain your view:

The Scottish Island Federation (SIF) generally lacks technical expertise upon which to base our response to the measures outlined in this consultation, but we are in a position to report a skills shortage on many islands which often involves mainland contractors visiting to undertake particular activities involving a significant surcharge on costs for any given project, reflecting additional transport, travel and DB&B expenses.

Through our members, we are aware of need for certification of skills for particular activities which can preclude island based trades folk from taking up contracts which they could be better placed to deliver more cost effectively, but for their access to formal qualifications and registered supplier requirements.

Such a situation seems to apply to retrofitted domestic insulation measures to reduce island fuel poverty, installation of new heating systems as well as the ongoing maintenance, or installation and commissioning of island charge points for electric vehicles.

In terms of upskilling, the majority of island-based contractors are sole traders or micro-businesses and may therefore struggle to access the skills requirement, particularly if a 'one-size fits all' approach is taken and results in a disproportionate burden and cost for small scale contractors.

Overall, if the situation in islands is recognised within the proposals, we believe there is a good opportunity within the sector to grow good, skilled jobs and career paths, contributing to island sustainability and population growth, and creating a more circular island economy.

Investing in local skills and capacity within islands, will also increase access to energy efficiency measures and national support initiatives for island

households, which currently suffer the highest levels fuel poverty in Scotland but have difficulty accessing support due to a number of barriers including a lack of registered contractors.

Lastly, in considering energy efficiency measures in an island context, we would like to underline the significant role of community-led initiatives, where the success of Government and national schemes often rely on community-led activity.

6b What impact do you think our skills requirements will have on the energy efficiency, microgeneration and heat networks sector in Scotland more generally?

Please explain your view:

7 What impact do you think our skills requirements will have on competition including training provision, quality, availability or price of any goods or services in the market?

Please explain your view:

8 What suggestions do you have for how digital technology could be used effectively to meet our skills requirements?

Please explain your view:

Insofar as skills accreditation is accepted as appropriate to assure the competence of contractors and the quality of their work on islands, SIF would welcome the provision of digital training and remote learning opportunities which would not necessarily involve personnel of small island businesses incurring time and expense in travelling to mainland training centres to learn new skills and earn accreditation in particular fields of work activity.

This also applies to young people trying to access appropriate courses whether through schools or further education such as UHI - these must be readily accessible and not restricted due to location as we currently see with a number of Nat 4 and Nat 5 and Higher level qualifications.

Support needs to be provided to enable it to become the norm for young people to study for qualifications that will be used locally thus developing a supply chain for the future for this sector which, given the key role of islands in energy transition, will be a key growth area for many islands

COVID Lockdown has shown the potential for digital learning in a college or university context, and lessons should be drawn from that experience to ensure island contractors are not adversely discriminated as far as access is concerned.

SIF would thus welcome in principle, increased provision of online training opportunities and arrangements for islanders to upgrade skills and qualifications at minimal expense to their businesses, wherever appropriate.

9 Are there any areas of skills we have not covered in this consultation that you think we should consider?

Please explain your view:

10 What support do you think would help the sector achieve these skills requirements?

Please explain your view:

About you

What is your name?

Name:
Camille Dressler

What is your email address?

Email:
info@scottish-islands-federation.co.uk

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
Scottish Islands Federation

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.: