

WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM NHS DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Q1 The Bill creates a statutory framework for greenhouse gas emissions reductions in Scotland by setting a 50% reduction target for 2030 and an 80% reduction target for 2050.

What are your views on the 2050 target and a 2030 interim target proposed in the Bill?

Both targets will prove to be challenging for NHS bodies. Major Capital expenditure will be required for the achievement of the targets set out in the Bill; however it does present the opportunity to raise the profile of good energy management and carbon reduction strategies. A co-ordinated approach from all public sectors would prove to be the most cost effective and rewarding approach, as long as this was 'driven' by a central department with the power to actually influence change.

Q2 The Bill requires that the Scottish Government sets annual targets, in secondary legislation, for Scottish emissions from 2010 to 2050. It is proposed that these annual targets will be set in batches, the first being for the years 2010 to 2022 inclusive.

What are your views on the setting of targets in batches from 2010 to 2022?

The setting of targets in batches may prove to be advantageous as this will aid organisations to plan long term strategies to achieve targets. The targets that are set must be achievable and realistic, and must be able to be reviewed within the 'batch' period.

Q3 The Bill provides that from the year 2020, the annual emissions targets must be set so that each is at least 3% lower than the target for the previous year. Prior to 2020, the Scottish Government has indicated that it intends to set annual targets which build towards delivering emissions reductions of at least 3% each year.

What are your views on this approach or any possible alternative approaches?

Annual targets should not penalise organisations for a good performance in the baseline year. Organisations that have already invested in carbon reduction and energy management will be penalised for being proactive, while an organisation that was managed badly will have easy reductions to make due to a poor performance in the baseline year.

Annual targets must also be weighted for weather conditions. Years which see an unusually hard winter may see organisations with mainly space heating energy use fail to achieve targets through no fault of their own.

Q.4 The Bill introduces the concept of a "net Scottish emissions account" as a point of reference against which the target for reducing greenhouse gases can be measured. It is defined as the net Scottish emissions plus or minus any carbon units credited to or debited from the account. Any units purchased may be used to offset Scottish emissions. Any carbon units generated in Scotland and sold to customers outside Scotland, count as emissions made in Scotland.

What are your views on the proposals in the Bill relating to the net Scottish emissions account, and should there be a limit on the number of carbon units which Scotland can purchase?

Power generation in Scotland is already at over capacity for Scotland's needs and a large proportion is sold in England. Will this mean that the UK government will supply carbon units to the Scottish government?

Q5 The Bill defines “Scottish emissions”, in relation to a greenhouse gas, as being emissions of that gas which are attributable to Scotland. The policy memorandum states that “Scottish emissions” are defined as being those greenhouse gases which are emitted in Scotland or which represent the Scottish share of emissions of gases from international aviation and international shipping.

What are your views on this definition of Scottish emissions?

Would flights passing through Scottish air space produce an ‘attributable emission’ to Scotland? This would be unfair as most transatlantic flights from mainland Europe pass over Scotland.

Q6 The Scottish Government has indicated that initially it intends to seek independent, expert advice on climate change from the UK Committee on Climate Change. The Scottish Government states in the policy memorandum that if it determines that the UK Committee on Climate Change does not meet all the advice needed for Scotland, the Bill contains provisions which will allow the Scottish Government to establish a Scottish Committee on Climate Change or to designate an existing body to exercise these advisory functions.

What are your views on the Scottish Government’s approach to obtaining independent, expert advice on climate change?

No view taken

Q7 The Bill places duties on the Scottish Government requiring that it reports regularly to the Scottish Parliament on Scotland’s emissions and on the progress being made towards the emissions reduction targets set in the Bill. The Bill sets out details of these reporting requirements.

What are your views on these proposed reporting arrangements?

No view taken

Q8 The Bill contains powers to allow the Scottish Government, by regulations, to impose duties on public bodies in relation to climate change, to issue guidance to those bodies relating to their climate change duties and to require that they report upon the discharge of those duties.

What are your views on this proposal?

Reporting duties should not be onerous or overly bureaucratic. Consistent and clear guidance is required.

Q9 The Bill places a duty on the Scottish Government to produce a report for Scotland, setting out its objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, proposals and policies for meeting them and the timescales within which they will be introduced.

What are your views on this proposal?

No view taken

Q10 Muirburn is the act of controlled burning of vegetation on open semi-natural habitats such as muir (Scottish word for moor) or moorland, and includes the burning of plants such as gorse, heather and grass. The Bill contains an enabling power to allow the Scottish Government to vary the permitted times during which muirburn may be made where they consider it necessary or expedient to do so in relation to climate change.

What are your views on this proposal?

No view taken.

Q11 The Bill will allow modification by order of the functions of the Forestry Commissioners to enable the Forestry Commission in Scotland to play a greater role in tackling climate change. The immediate intent of the Scottish Government is to take forward proposals relating to renewable energy development on the National Forest Estate and the release of capital from the National Forest Estate for woodland creation.

What are your views on this proposal?

No view taken.

Q12 The Bill requires the Scottish Government to produce an action plan setting out current and proposed measures to improve the energy efficiency of buildings in Scotland, as well as measures to encourage behavioural change.

What are your views on this proposal?

Public building already have to achieve BREEAM excellent standards.

EU Directive 2002/91/EC and BRE guidelines have meant that public buildings require EPC's (Energy Performance Certificates).

Q13 The Bill confers powers on the Scottish Ministers to make regulations providing for the assessment of (a) the energy performance of non-domestic buildings; and (b) emissions of greenhouse gases produced or associated with such buildings. The provisions are enabling in nature and the Policy Memorandum provides further information on the Scottish Government's thinking in this area.

What are your views on this approach?

Considerable costs have already been incurred in producing EPC's, costs which could have been targeted more beneficially at improving performance in what are generally known as 'poor performance.

Consideration should be given ensure that any further costs incurred actually improve performance.

Q14 The Bill places a duty on the Scottish Government to take such steps as it consider appropriate to promote the use of heat from renewable sources. The Scottish Government has indicated this provision will enable it to introduce measures it deems appropriate to incentivise the production of heat from renewable sources.

What are your views on this proposal?

This is a good step forward in sustainable development.

**Q15 The Bill sets out measures aimed at improving waste and recycling. The Bill gives powers to the Scottish Government to make regulations in the following areas:
Waste prevention and management plans;**

**Waste data;
Deposit of recyclable waste;
Procurement of recycle;
Reduction of packaging;
Deposit and return schemes;
Charges for carrier bags.**

What are your views on these proposals?

New regulations should not be overly bureaucratic and work with existing legislation and regulations. Charging for carrier bags has not been proven to work in the Republic of Ireland and may have led to the production of more plastic.

Q16 What are your views on the adequacy of the Scottish Government's consultation in advance of publishing the Bill?

Consultation has been adequate.

Q17 Do you have any views on the Strategic Environmental Assessment which was carried out by the Scottish Government out on the consultation proposals?

No view taken.

Q18 Does the Bill raise any equalities issues you would wish to highlight?

None.

Q19 Do you have any comments on the impact of the Bill on sustainable development?

The bill may prove to be a stepping stone toward sustainable development.

Q20 Do you have any other comments on the Bill?

None.