

Annex D – Consultation Questions

Q1. What additional training, information or guidance do you think Public Sector Bodies need to help them increase their action on climate change?

We welcome the introduction of a recognised qualification aimed at middle to senior managers within public bodies. We agree that this is the appropriate target audience at whom this particular piece of learning should be directed.

However, we would also welcome additional learning and awareness raising exercises aimed at all levels of staff across the full public sector. We strongly believe that every person in Scotland can play a positive part in addressing climate change, not just senior/middle managers. At OSCR we previously used Sustainable Scotland Network's Climate Change e-learning module. We found this to be an effective way of engaging staff in the climate change discussion, as well as raising general awareness and understanding of Scotland's commitment towards climate action. We believe that offering a similar solution would assist basic understanding across all individuals.

We also feel that having the opportunity to find out about real solutions and practical examples of climate change projects undertaken by public bodies of varying sizes would be extremely beneficial to us. Although this has happened in the past, the focus has often been on larger public bodies with substantial estates. As a relatively small public body, operating within one office of a shared building, we often struggle to identify projects that can make a real difference to effectively reducing our carbon footprint. Having the ability to understand how similar sized bodies positively affect climate reduction would be very beneficial to us and we would welcome an online forum/dedicated newsletter or similar platform that would assist this knowledge sharing.

Q2. What are your views on the proposed structure for the High Ambition Climate Network of Chief Executives and Elected Members?

We welcome initiatives that drive forward Scotland's climate ambition to achieve net zero emissions. However, it is difficult for us to comment on how this particular network will work without a full understanding of the specifics in terms of membership (core network), remit, objectives, lines of authority and overall accountability.

Q3. Do you agree that Public Sector Bodies should be required to set targets for when they will achieve zero direct emissions, and for reduced indirect emissions?

Yes / no / don't know Please explain your answer.

Yes, we believe this is a sensible approach given the different size and scale of bodies operating within the public sector.

Q4. Do you agree that Public Sector Bodies should report annually on how they use their resources to contribute to reducing emissions?

Yes / no / don't know Please explain your answer.

Yes. We believe that this is an appropriate way of ensuring that climate action is given the appropriate consideration across all levels of an organisation. Reporting annually would also increase our transparency and public accountability.

Q5. Do you agree that the details of what Public Sector Bodies are required to report on should be set out in statutory guidance instead of on the face of secondary legislation (otherwise known as an Order)?

Yes / no / don't know Please explain your answer.

Yes. We agree that to do so would provide greater flexibility, allowing reporting duties to evolve along with any changes in policies and strategies.

Q6. Do you agree to the proposed changes to the list of Public Sector Bodies that are required to annually report their emissions?

Yes / no / don't know If you answered no, please specify which aspect of the proposal you disagree with and why.

Yes. However, we would welcome further extension of the list to include larger organisations in receipt of public funding associated with delivering core public sector services, such as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

7. Do you agree with our proposals for amending the reporting requirements as set out above?

Yes / no / don't know If you answered no, please specify which aspect of the proposal you disagree with.

Yes.

Q8. Is there anything else you think should be added to the reporting duties, or anything else you think should be removed?

No comments for this question.

Q9. Do you agree that Public Sector Bodies should each make their own report on emissions reductions publicly available?

Yes / no / don't know Please explain your answer.

Yes.

At present, OSCR has a link from our website to our environmental reports held on the SSN website. We would be happy to host these reports directly on our website and we agree that by doing so we would be improving our accountability and transparency as a public sector body.

Other comments.