Proposed New-Build Homes (Buyer Protection) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to establish standard missives for the sale of new-build homes, including redress for purchasers in respect of defects in construction. The consultation runs from 5 April 2019 to 27 June 2019. 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 attached to this consultation 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.

on behalf of an organisation

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").

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

South Ayrshire Council Building Standards
Aim and Approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing statutory standardised clauses for builders' missives?

- Fully supportive

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

SAC Building Standards agree with LABSS position regarding the proposal for an Ombudsman.

Q2. Which of the following best expresses your view of providing a statutory route for home buyers to obtain redress for major failings on new-build property?

- Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

SAC Building Standards are fully supportive of a statutory route for home buyers.

Q3. What do you think would be the main practical advantages and disadvantages of the proposed Bill?

**Advantages:** Protection for home buyers/owners. Standardised route.

**Disadvantages:** n/a

Q4. What length of time do you think is most appropriate for a builder's warranty for a new-build home?

- 5 years
Q4. What length of time do you think is most appropriate for a builder's warranty for a new-build home?

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**
Defects are not always evident immediately after the build. 10 years?

Q5. Which of the following best describes your view of having standard missives that provide a right for buyers to carry out a full survey of the property within a specified period, and a right to pull out of the purchase if severe or very serious defects are discovered?

**Fully supportive**

**Please explain the reasons for your response**
This will provide protection for the buyer/owner and having this policy in place should improve the standards of construction.

Q6. If you have bought a new-build home in the past, please tell me about your experience, taking care not to name individuals/companies or the location of the property/development.

n/a

Financial Implications

Q7. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Significant increase in cost</th>
<th>Some increase in cost</th>
<th>Broadly cost-neutral</th>
<th>Some reduction in cost</th>
<th>Significant reduction in cost</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tr>
<td>Government and the public sector</td>
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<td><strong>Businesses (including housebuilders)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Individuals (including new-build house buyers)</strong></td>
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<td>X</td>
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**Please explain the reasons for your response.**
n/a
### Equalities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, maternity and pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Neutral (neither positive nor negative)</td>
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<td>Please explain the reasons for your response.</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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### Sustainability

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<th>Q9. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Please explain the reasons for your response.</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
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### General

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<th>Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?</th>
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<td>n/a</td>
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