

Meeting of the Electricians Working Group

This working group has been convened to explore the challenge of ensuring the safety of electrical installations. In addressing the challenge, the Scottish Government is committed to three key outcomes:

- Protecting consumers
- Protecting scrupulous traders and creating an inhospitable environment for miscreants
- Maintaining an environment that allows competition within the provision of electrical services to thrive.

One proposal to achieve these objectives is to provide title protection for electricians. Other proposals include a voluntary regulation scheme, and an increased emphasis on increasing consumer awareness and making it easier to identify qualified professionals.

The Scottish Government is committed to finding a way forward on the basis of clear evidence, and on the understanding that any solution must be proportionate and have a demonstrable ability to achieve our stated outcomes. These parameters will underpin any Scottish Government action, and we hope that the Working Group will provide a forum for solutions to be explored through thorough and open discussion.

Below is the agenda for the first meeting along with some questions to consider.

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Exploration of current system and challenges, including:
 - effectiveness of current standards and schemes to encourage best practice;
 - consumer awareness of the need to employ qualified professionals and how to do so;
 - Impacts of rogue traders on users of electrical services and on the wider economy
- Understanding and developing the evidence base
- Consideration of possible solutions
- Next steps.

Questions for consideration

- How do we measure the likely costs and impacts of unsafe electrical work?
- How do we practically deter rogue traders who are often already in breach of the law?
- How can we deliver a simplified enough means to allow consumers to determine who is qualified or not?
- What impact can schemes such as Trusted Trader have on supporting consumers to choose qualified electricians?