

Energy & Climate Change Directorate
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

30th April 2021

To whom it may concern,

Response: Draft Heat in Buildings Strategy - Achieving Net Zero Emissions in Scotland's Buildings Consultation

The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) is the independent voice on infrastructure and the leading source of expertise in infrastructure and engineering policy.

ICE is a global body with 92,000 members. ICE Scotland represents around 9,000 members, who are drawn from across the public, private and academic sectors. Our members design, build and maintain Scotland's critical transport, water, flooding, energy and waste infrastructure as well as educating the next generation of engineers. However, we are not a trade body. Our Royal Charter requires that we act in the public interest and the following comments have been developed in this way.

Climate Ready Infrastructure

ICE Scotland has long called for an increased programme of infrastructure development, maintenance and adaptation and our 2020 report, [Climate Ready Infrastructure](#), sets out our position on this. This consultation is specifically for the Scottish Government draft Strategy for Achieving Net Zero Emissions in Scotland's Buildings. This aligns with the ICE Scotland recommendations on adapting our infrastructure in general for a resilient low carbon future. The consultation is wide ranging in its scope and there are areas where ICE Scotland is not in a position to make responses. However, in addition to the transport, energy, water, communications and other infrastructure systems, our buildings infrastructure comprises a substantial part of the complete infrastructure network which support our communities. Civil Engineers are at the heart of these infrastructure systems and Civil Engineers are already working in the decarbonisation of these buildings and infrastructure, and there are some comments we would set out within this letter.



With regard to pathways, programme, preparation etc, the Scottish Infrastructure commission in its Stage 1 and Stage 2 reports made recommendations for the low carbon future of infrastructure in Scotland. A fundamental part of this was the recommendation to strategically assess our infrastructure as a whole and with an outcome led approach. We would suggest that this approach should apply to our built infrastructure.

In terms of economic opportunity, it is important that our indigenous infrastructure businesses and supply chain are fully engaged in the low carbon transition process including upgrading our buildings stock and delivering any new buildings infrastructure. The procurement strategy and methods employed will be fundamental to the effectiveness of this. Conversations are already under way between industry and government on this matter and it will be important that these are taken to a mutually agreed conclusion ahead of the low carbon programme. Any agreed procurement strategy will also need to plan for the long term.

Engaging with our Scottish businesses, in terms of assisting employment stability and growth, is obviously important with regard to people, communities and place and this emphasises the matter of procurement. Skills are also at the heart of this and, again, we are aware of a number of initiatives already under way. This includes the Skills Investment Plan for Scotland's Construction Sector prepared by Skills Development Scotland. Scotland's energy transition will require new skills, but many of our existing trades and professions are well placed to adapt to new requirements. This subject is covered by the [ICE Professional Skills Report](#) of 2018. Any proposals within this Strategy will need to support professional, technical and craft skills as well as ensuring that both upskilling and new skills training are supported.

At a national level, ICE has been at the forefront of examining the need to achieve Net-Zero. Our [State of the Nation Report 2020: Infrastructure and net Zero](#), looks at this at a UK wide level and ICE has made a number of submissions to the UK Government on net zero and decarbonisation.

ICE Scotland members are well positioned to be part of the creation of strong, productive and sustainable places for the people who live and work in them for generations to come. We would welcome further engagement in this work as it develops.

Yours sincerely,



James Young BSc, FICE, CEng

Public Voice Committee

ICE Scotland



Annex D – Respondent Information Form

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy:
<https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
- Organisation**

Full name or organisation's name

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS, SCOTLAND

Phone number

0141 221 5276

Address

105 West George Street, Glasgow,

Postcode

G2 1QL

Email

scotland@ice.org.uk

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

- Publish response with name**
- Publish response only (without name)
- Do not publish response

Information for organisations:
The option 'Publish response only (without name)' is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.
If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

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

No