

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment

June 2017



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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CRWIA front sheet	
Policy/measure	Climate Change Bill
Project initiation document	N/A
Initiating department	Climate Change Bill Team, Governance and Legislation Unit, Decarbonisation Division, Directorate for Energy and Climate Change
Policy aims	<p>Tackling climate change is a key component of the Scottish Government's aim to create a growing, sustainable and inclusive economy. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 set world-leading greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, including a target to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2050. The Scottish Government intends to introduce a new Climate Change Bill to make the targets even more ambitious. Proposals include; increasing the 2050 target to a reduction of at least 90% from baseline levels and making provision for a net-zero emissions target to be set when the evidence becomes available. A number of technical amendments designed to improve the transparency of the target framework have also been proposed. The Bill will form an important element of the Scottish Government's commitment to focusing Government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.</p>
Timetable	<p>The Bill was announced in September 2016, as part of the 2016-17 Programme for Government.</p> <p>This stage of the CRWIA process accompanies the launch of the public consultation on proposals for the Bill.</p>
Date	6 June 2017
Signature	Tom Russon, Governance and Legislation Unit

CRWIA Stage 1 Screening considerations

1. What aspects of the policy / measure will affect children and young people up to the age of 18?

The Bill proposals to set new / update existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets have the potential to affect children and young people.

The Bill proposals for technical amendments to the mechanisms of the target framework are not expected to affect children and young people in any way.

2. What likely impact - direct or indirect - will the policy/measure have on children and young people?

Setting new / updating existing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets does not, in itself, lead to any direct impacts on children and young people. However, setting new / updating existing climate targets does have the potential for substantial indirect impacts for each individual in Scotland, including children, in both current and future generations. These indirect impacts fall into two broad categories:

Impacts associated with the measures used to deliver emissions reductions:

Impacts in this category could have relevance to UNCRC Article 27 regarding right to an adequate standard of living and are expected to be overwhelmingly positive. For example, the Scottish Government's energy efficiency programme will make homes warmer and help reduce fuel poverty, alongside delivering reduced emissions. It is, however, recognised that decarbonisation measures have the potential to lead to unintended adverse impacts, including on inequalities through factors such as energy costs. The nature and extent of the impacts in this category will depend on the particular packages of delivery measures to be used. The Bill proposals retain the "framework" approach of the 2009 Act, in that these packages of measures will be defined through subsequent strategic delivery plans, rather than in the primary legislation itself.

Impacts associated with mitigating the effects of global climate change:

Impacts in this category could have relevance to UNCRC Article 24 regarding the role of environmental pollution in the right to health and are again expected to be overwhelmingly positive. Scotland's people will benefit from reducing the effects of global climate change (e.g. reduced exposure to risks associated with flooding and extreme weather events). Whilst Scotland can play an important leadership role in increasing international ambition it is, however, recognised that updating the levels of domestic climate targets can only ever have a relatively small direct effect on global emission levels.

3. Are there particular groups of children and young people who are more likely to be affected than others?

Given the indirect nature of the identified impacts on children and young people and the framework nature of the proposed Bill (see section 2), it is considered unlikely to be possible to robustly identify differential impacts amongst particular groups of children and young people.

This finding is consistent with the scoping stage findings of the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) process for the Bill, which concluded that robust identification of differential impacts across any of the statutory protected characteristics is unlikely to be possible.

4. Who else have you involved in your deliberations?

The approach to CRWIA was discussed at a combined EQIA and CRWIA Framing Workshop attended by Scottish Government policy leads and analytical professionals covering climate change governance, delivery planning and adaptation. Views were also sought from the Scottish Government Children’s Rights and Social Justice teams.

5. Will this require a CRWIA?

Setting ambitious climate change targets has the potential to lead to substantial indirect impacts on children and young people living in Scotland, both now in future generations. As such, an approach to the new Bill that carefully considers the impacts on children and young people is important. Undertaking a process of CRWIA will help achieve this.

The finding of the joint EQIA and CRWIA Framing Worksop was that the most appropriate approach to these assessments in the case of the proposed Bill is through a combined, high-level, process of EQIA, CRWIA and socio-economic assessment. This finding reflects the fact that the nature and magnitude of the impacts on people, including children and young people, of updating the framework of climate targets will depend on the particular package of emissions reduction measures that will be used to meet the targets. The proposed Bill retains the “framework” character of the 2009 Act, in that the packages of measures will be defined in strategic delivery plans rather than in the primary legislation itself. As a result, the most effective point at which to undertake detailed CRWIA in relation to climate policies will remain alongside the development of individual emission reduction policies, as appropriate.

CRWIA Declaration

CRWIA required	CRWIA not required
Yes, but noting the initial findings on the appropriate level for such an assessment.	

Authorisation

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