

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?

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

SEStran officers act on behalf on the Partnership Board in order to meet the vision and aims of the Partnership and business plans. SEStran support the principle of elected members and senior officers guiding the direction for the climate network with appropriate measures to filter this information to officers at a working level, particularly with regards to reporting progress. Consideration should be given to whether an electronic forum is sufficient to disseminate information from senior level officers to working level officers.

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?

No

SEStran has taken steps to reduce direct and indirect emissions, through the relocation of workplace to within a shared building and a travel hierarchy but due to the irregular nature of travel within a year it is complex to predict total travel and not feasible to offset these emissions in a calculated way. As stated within the document, wider society needs to make collective decisions in order to facilitate the change for all of Scotland, small public bodies such as SEStran may have limited or no influence over certain areas of emission. In addition, with these targets being self set they may not achieve the desired result with targets needing to be recalculated within the first few cycles.

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

Yes

SEStran has fulfilled it's duty since 2014 to annually report and publish emissions as part of the SSN network, and actively report on the impact of it's work through various projects and the benefit they bring to the Partnership and the aims of sustainability in the region.

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

The flexibility in guidance should be facilitated to allow for easy reporting and alleviate resource pressure. Cognisance must be taken of the reporting standards in order to avoid false reductions through a change in criteria.

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.

Q7. Do you agree with our proposals for amending the reporting requirements as set out above?

No

Disagree with the proposals of section 3(d) Net-zero emission for the reasons discussed in question 3.

The removal of section 2 places emphasis on adaptation of climate risks and consequences rather than proactive mitigation measures that can be taken to reduce emissions. This shift to adaptation is missing the context of attaining carbon net zero with no emphasis on reduced emissions and decarbonisation.

The consultation document refers to a focus on delivery but the proposals do not specifically lay out how provision will be made to report on Public Bodies action to achieve emissions reduction.

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

Further detail is required on the proposals for sections 4 and 5 and what the new format for these would take. At this time, it is difficult to add further comment from the detail in the consultation document as discussed in question 8.

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

SEStran reports on its Climate Change Duty annually to the Partnership Board where it is scrutinised by members after the submission to SSN. The report is made available through SSN and the accompanying board reports are made available through the SEStran website.