

Q8. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (please note this is a compulsory question)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As a member of the Law Enforcement Action Partnership with 32 years service in policing I am fully aware of the negative effects our present policies have on individuals and society.

Q9. Do you think legislation is required, or are there are other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Legislation is required. Without it any policy could easily be overturned by a new government with a different agenda, this is an immediate problem but require long term solutions unhindered by party politics.

Q10. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to establish overdose prevention centres?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

In countries where this approach has been adopted all results are positive. People who use drugs are given the proper support at the proper time when they are at their most vulnerable.

Q11. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal for a licensing regime to enable the establishment of overdose prevention centres?

Fully supportive

Please provide reasons for your response, including on the proposed conditions for licensing (see pages 12 to 14 of the consultation document) and on the proposal that health and social care partnerships are responsible for licensing and scrutinising OPCs?

It is essential that OPCs be licensed, the next logical step is to provide Heroin as Treatment within them. By adopting this policy Switzerland showed an 80% reduction in new heroin users between 1991 and 2010 as well as a 50% decrease in drug deaths and 65% reduction in HIV infections.

Q12. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal for a new body, the Scottish Drugs Deaths Council?

Fully supportive

Please provide reasons for your response, including views on the proposed functions of the SDDC (see pages 14 to 16 of the consultation document) and on how it should operate in practice.

It is essential that a non partisan body be in place which is not aligned to any political party and can concentrate fully on their remit without deferring to a specific political ideology which can change at any election.

Financial Implications

Q13. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

some increase in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

There will be an increase in costs to set up a network of OPCs which will be met, in the main, from public funds but this will be offset against the costs presently incurred by failing to provide appropriate services. I would also expect that, with a change in emphasis towards health, the police would be better able to concentrate on the real criminals, those who are supplying illegal drugs and there would be an increase in seizure of criminal assets which should be diverted into this programme.

Equalities

Q14. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

This is an issue which impacts across society. Those who turn to drugs are often those who have suffered trauma or been subjected to abuse stemming from the issues listed so implementation of OPCs would have a positive effect across all those areas.

Sustainability

Q15. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? If you do not have a view then skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

It would have a positive effect on the environment by taking control of an issue which is presently driven underground resulting in individuals discarding paraphernalia in areas where they create risk for others. By providing a safe environment this problem would diminish.

We must create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations, they will inherit our legacy and, at present, that is wholly negative with regard to people who use drugs. We have criminalised an entire section of society who should be helped.