

Drug Death Prevention (Scotland) Bill

About You

Q1. Are you responding as:

An individual

Q2. Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Q3. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:

No Response

Q4. Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Michael McFarlane

Q5. Please provide a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. (Note: We will not publish these contact details.)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Q6. Data protection declaration

In order to proceed, please confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice contained on Page 1

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

Q7. If you are under 12 and making a submission, we will need to contact you to ask your parent or guardian to confirm to us that they are happy for you to send us your views.

No Response

Your Views On The Proposal

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.

We have to treat drug addiction as a health concern, not a criminal act. Drug prevention centres do not promote or encourage criminal behaviour. Instead, they save the lives of vulnerable - frequently homeless - drug addiction sufferers who would otherwise die. This is an essential progressive step forward for Scotland.

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.

The implementation of drug prevention and safe consumption is key. Regarding drug addiction as a health issue rather than a crime is integral. We must do both. Current legislation and apparatus is insufficient.

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.

Creating physical places to enact a policy of safe consumption will send a signal that drug addicts are valued human beings and that society has a desire to help them through their addiction safely. Policy without physical form means very little to people on the street.

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

Partially 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?

I am broadly supportive of a licensing scheme. My only comment is that it should not be so officious as to create delays and barriers to entry for those wishing to help.

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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.

I don't believe the name should include the phrase 'Drugs Deaths'. I support the implementation of a body like this but it should be named something else IMO. Something focussed on 'Health' or 'Care'.

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?

no overall change 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.

Truthfully, I can't offer a strong opinion or forecast on the finance. But this is a public health measure that should not have its benefits quantified purely - or even primarily - through the prism of cost. This deserves the same gravitas afforded to Covid prevention or cancer research. We must do this because it's the right thing to do; because it will save the lives of our fellow citizens- vulnerable, hopeful human beings who deserve a life beyond addiction.

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.

Whilst certain demographics of Scottish society may be more prone to drug addiction, it is ultimately a plight that can befall any human being. The services in this bill should - and would, I believe - be available equally to all who need it.

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?

The safe disposal of needles and other drug paraphernalia would be a positive for the environment and safety of public places.