

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Chris Kilgallon

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.

The so-called 'War on Drugs', in the UK and elsewhere (not least the US) has proven, many times over, to be a complete failure and a means of recreating violence against the most vulnerable of people. It does nothing to either prevent the use or abuse of drugs, nor does it prevent crime. These were supposedly the main motives behind the 'War on Drugs'. The reality is, policing the use of drugs directly leads to demonstrable harm, both among the actual drug users and among the (non-drug-taking) general public the 'War on Drugs' was supposed to protect. It has led to over-incarceration (along with its debilitating employment/social results, such as higher unemployment among drug users, increasing debt and heightened worry and mental illness among both the users and their families and communities). Innocent and good people are dying needlessly of very easily preventable deaths. The UK has followed this punitive system for too long (it never should have pursued this method at all, in fact) and it is time to introduce genuine harm reduction. Overdose prevention sites are the very beginning of this.

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.

I do think the legislation is required immediately. I also think it is only the very beginning of what should form a concise and comprehensive series of harm reduction measures. Drug testing centres should be on the cards, as should complete decriminalisation. This should be coupled with the training and employment of designated individuals who would work to help prevent the abuse and overdose of drugs. It should be coupled with further education in schools, informing the next generation of potential users of the risks as well as the resources and solutions we would likely have under said harm reduction measures.

It would involve lots of consultation, debate and discussion, and it would need to ensure that at every section, people with *direct lived* experience of being a drug user form a leading role in said legislation.

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

Fully supportive

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

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

Fully supportive

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?

a significant reduction 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.

A significantly smaller strain on hospitals, surgeries, pharmacies, and other healthcare facilities would be the single biggest economic impact, I would argue. Over time, the need to steal in order to fund a harmful drug habit would lessen if the user(s) knew they had somewhere to go in order to both consume the drug safely, and also access suitable therapy (or other means of rehabilitation). This would obviously have a hugely significant positive impact on both private homeowners and businesses.

While, yes, the degree to which we would need to invest in mental health nursing, and in generally shifting our approaches to public health as a society, would require effort, energy and some funding, I would argue that the future benefits of the legislation would render these costs irrelevant.

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.

No Response

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?

No Response