

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

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

I have worked in field of criminal justice and have experience of working in deprived communities. The impact of drugs on our individual citizens and wider society is of concern. Those with the ability to change and formulate policy are letting their electorate down. It's time for change.

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Mel Swan

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.

Not enough is being done to protect the public; especially those who use drugs to the extent they may harm themselves or others. The Scottish Government may be well intentioned but it simply isn't doing enough. It's been in power long enough but has failed the country.

I'm of the opinion that the SG fears criticism but where lives can be saved then why not be led by specialist individuals free from the restraints of party politics. A Scottish Drugs Death Council might not seem like a popular title for an organisation; but let's not sugar-coat 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.

With the highest drug death rate in Europe and with a drug misuse rate higher than elsewhere in the UK a fresh approach is required. The Bill sets out a clear route map and allows for a fresh approach.

Public money will be required but the benefits to our communities will be immeasurable. How do you measure family grief? Spend to save might also impact on other public services: police, social work and NHS.

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.

Any measure that aims to tackle the problem of drug misuse must be applauded. Just now our services are failing.

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?

Seems a logical and sensible way forward. There must be control and accountability.

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.

Long over due. The current Scottish Government has lost control of the situation and change is required. They will no doubt talk of structural matters - funding, Westminster, previous rounds of Austerity cuts - but the fact remains that our current administration has failed. So time for change. If this initiative fails then try again. It's lives and health and how the fabric of society can be improved. The establishment of a truly independent body might steer policy in the right direction.

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.

All policy comes with some form of cost but equally there will be savings across the public sector: police, other emergency services, social work, NHS etc. In terms of improving the fabric of life in Scotland then the investment will reap longer term benefits.

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.

Drug use impacts on the whole of Scottish society so any impact assessment would tick as many boxes required to make an equality impact assessment look attractive. Let's just get on with it. Engage with stakeholders as identified and as required.

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?

As outlined previously, this proposal could provide benefits that will carry forward into today's and future generations. The benefits to society are apparent.