

# Proposed Right to Addiction Recovery (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to enable people addicted to drugs and/or alcohol to access the necessary addiction treatment they require.

The consultation runs from 7 October 2021 to 12 January 2022.

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

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

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

*No Response*

## About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.  
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

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:**

Mother has battled with addiction for the majority of my life (27+ years)

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

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 Full 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". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

David Brown

Please provide details of 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.

We will not publish these details.

**Aim and Approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").**

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

**Please explain the reasons for your response. We would welcome comments on any experience you have had of accessing, or trying to access, addiction treatment.**

We need urgent progressive policies. There are incredibly successful initiatives in other countries with proven track records of success that should be implemented at the earliest possible time. There is nowhere near enough support for addicts or their families/children. I have personally found my mother incapacitated and in urgent need of emergency care, addiction support, rehabilitation etc. Its incredibly hard to access this treatment or support without personal funds of tens of thousands of pounds. Ive been turned away from A&E, laughed at by paramedics ( as a teenager ). Our attitudes to complex addiction and mental health issues needs urgent attention. We need policies that treat the causes of self medication, and work towards fundamental societal change that also alleviates the stigma around addiction and substance abuse.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Legislation is required. We need proper funding for rehabilitation and therapy for both the addict and their immediate family/dependants. As a society we should value these support mechanisms as we do a GP and dentist. We need to decriminalise addiction and treat it in a progressive and humane manner.

Q3. How do you think the right to treatment established in the Bill would be most effectively implemented and enforced? Tick all options that apply.

Duty on Scottish Ministers

Duty on Health Boards

Duty on Integration Joint Boards (IJB's)

Established targets/standards

Requirement for the Scottish Government to report progress on duty

Other (For example Local Authorities - please specify below).

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of creating a specific complaints procedure, in addition to the existing NHS complaints procedure?

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response. We would welcome comments on any experience you have had with the existing NHS complaints procedure.**

A specific complaints procedure about what? the inability to access proper care and support? In my experience there's no emotional bandwidth to 'complain' this feels like an unnecessary question. Certainly not a priority.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of allowing those suffering from addiction to choose a preferred treatment option, and for them to receive that option unless deemed harmful by a medical professional?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response. We would welcome suggestions about how this could work in practice.**

Individuals need to be open to support, so a choice of treatments is obviously going to provide more options. That said, if the individual case is affecting children, or direct family in a home a level of compulsory treatment should be explored. This could be as simple CBT. family therapy sessions. Drug testing etc.

Q6. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill seeking to prevent treatment being refused?

Fully supportive

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view of requiring the Scottish Government to establish a national funding scheme?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

The Scottish Government should have borrowing powers. We should have the autonomy to borrow funds to facilitate urgent and swift policy changes that will improve the lives of our communities. Especially for health and social emergencies such as poverty and drug deaths. The people of Scotland deserve a government and NHS that can move swiftly, dynamically and with agility to borrow and implement already proven policies immediately. Waiting for funding schemes, budgets, parliament approval isn't giving this issue the urgent reaction it demands.

## Financial Implications

Q8. Taking into account all those likely to be affected (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc), is the proposed Bill likely to lead to:

no overall change in costs

**Please indicate where you would expect the impact identified to fall (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc). You may also wish to suggest ways in which the aims of the Bill could be delivered more cost-effectively.**

Initial costs will be high, but with a healthier society the long term costs will be reduced. Again, these financial questions feel completely unimportant when discussing this issue. The harm reduction and policies in other countries have been a huge success. The finances are not a priority.

## Equalities

Q9. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Unsure

## Sustainability

Q10. In terms of assessing the proposed Bill's potential impact on sustainable development, you may wish to consider how it relates to the following principles:

- living within environmental limits
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting effective, participative systems of governance
- ensuring policy is developed on the basis of strong scientific evidence.

With these principles in mind, do you consider that the Bill can be delivered sustainably?

Yes

## General

Q11. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

I welcome this bill as access to addiction recovery is non-existent for the majority of citizens. My mother's addiction has and continues to negatively affect me and my siblings' lives. Addiction is a public health issue. It is not a criminal issue. I don't fully trust Douglas Ross' motives for this bill. However, we need a progressive and humane change to our approach to addiction and the services families and individuals can access.