

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:

I am a retired Early Years head of centre. I cared for children of addicts for many years and believe more has to be done to help families. On a personal level, my brother had a drug addiction for most of his adult life. He died last year from an overdose of street valium, whilst on a Methodone programme.

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).

Elizabeth Daly

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.

I believe there should be a choice of recovery programmes, not just a "one size fits all". It is a matter of Human Rights...fundamentally, the Right to Life. Addicts may have made a choice to try/use drugs, however they then lose all choices. They are caught up in an underworld of criminality and violence, from which there can be no escape. The Bill would offer the Right to Recovery, with support from a variety of agencies and services.

When my brother had a psychotic episode, I had to go to my MSP in order to get him the correct treatment. He had me to fight for him, many addicts have no-one.

In my professional capacity, I was involved in a significant incident involving children and Methodone...the Bill could provide access to non pharmaceutical recovery programmes for families with young children, reducing the risk of harm.

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.

I do think legislation is required. This would give universal access to recovery programmes throughout the country and reduce the "post code lottery" effect. We need recovery and the Right to Life enshrined in law!

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).

Please explain the reasons for your response.

A fully integrated approach is required. It's everyone's duty to make sure we meet the needs of people with addiction

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

Fully supportive

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

Addiction is usually (but not always) a response to Adverse Childhood Experiences. We have to ensure everyone involved in a child/young person's life, is aware of the effects of these experiences and use

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

appropriate strategies to make a difference. If one or more agency fails, then they should be held accountable.

I also believe the NHS is overstretched and tend to use a physical ailment triage system instead if a holistic approach. This is what happened to my brother, being discharged from hospital 3 times, as his "wounds" had healed, yet his mind had not. Again, I was able to challenge this for him, but so many do not have an advocate.

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.

Most addicts I have known, wish to escape from the cycle of addiction, but have no idea how to start. One addict I spoke to recently, is desperate to get into a rehabilitation centre which advocates abstinence, however he needed the support of his GP to reduce his substitute medication. This was causing anxiety on his part, resulting in him displaying challenging behaviour in the surgery...affecting relationships with a supportive agency. A true vicious circle. If there was legislation, i.e The Right to Recovery Bill, he could be offered a pathway which would document a reduction in his medication on a timescale that suited his needs, with his goal being admitted to the rehabilitation centre.

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

Fully supportive

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

Another Human Rights issue, we should be asking "what do you want to happen now?"
The right to be safe, to feel in control of their lives...many addicts have been denied this choice. Being involved in the planning of their own recovery programme will give ownership and responsibility.

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

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There is no point in introducing legislation without funds to implement it. Long term, with a reduction in prescribed substitutes and a reduction in crime, there should be a return in revenue

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:

don't know

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.

I honestly don't know, however what price can we put on a human life? What about babies born with Methadone withdrawal? Where was their choice? They require intensive care...how much does that cost? Where there is expenditure, there will be savings.

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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response. Where any negative impacts are identified, you may also wish to suggest ways in which these could be minimised or avoided.

People with addictions are among the most marginalised in our society. They are protected by equality legislation on aspects of gender, creed, sexuality etc, but not for their lifestyle. It seems ok to call out "Junkie"

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Most alternative recovery programmes are sustainable and do not involve the use of substances or disposable items. Many use access to outdoor pursuits, leading to a passion for caring for the environment

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'm delighted to see this Bill being presented to the Scottish Parliament and hope part politics can be put aside to see it gets a fair hearing. Addiction knows no political boundaries and the Right to Recovery should be for all persons requiring it.

It has been too late coming for my brother and many of the families I have worked with, however it has given me hope. Hope is such an inspiring emotion. This Bill will give Hope to thousands!