

# 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've struggled with alcohol & cannabis abuse most of my adult life.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

**If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):**

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).

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

**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.**  
What is being done to combat addiction in Scotland isn't working at all.

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.

Decriminalization of personal amounts should be looked at. Dragging drug users through the legal system or even just fining them isn't helping matters. It doesn't seem to discourage drug use at all. This is clear.

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

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.**

By 'other' I mean local authorities. The rest? I think this is such a serious problem that a very strong response is long overdue & has been largely ignored and or poorly managed by all of the above.

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 such an issue that I feel it would be productive for it to have a specific, specialised complaints procedure. We need to throw all we have at this in my opinion.

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.**

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?

I mean for instance throwing people onto the methadone program & hoping for the best doesn't work & that seems to be what is done. This does nothing but create more addiction & often heroin addicts fall into recidivism. Addicts should be more informed about other forms of treatment & they should be able to choose them.

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.**

More options, more say & I think people will be more likely to choose rather than refuse treatment. This isn't complicated stuff.

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.**

Well it patently needs more funding than it has currently & we would be met with the extremely pleasant side effect of seeing the Scottish government not waste money for once.

## 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:

some increase 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.**

I mean it would obviously be costly as big problems often require big money to solve them, however when I think of the cost of addiction, drug deaths & the subsequent societal problems they create which we have now (which also very much cost), I feel doing this would ultimately cost us all a lot less as we see the positive effects take hold in Scotland under this proposal.

## 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.**

Addiction knows no bounds. It would impact people of those characteristics afflicted the same as it would those of who are not of those characteristics. That would be positive. Sorry I feel this is a silly question as after all we are all human.

## 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.**

People who don't have feeding an insidious addiction are more likely to consider the environment more than they do currently. They are more likely to live within environmental limits than otherwise. Less people strung out on drugs & alcohol would obviously create a healthier society. Once said people are successfully cured they will find it far easier to get into employment then contribute to the economy & a cornerstone of a strong society is a strong economy. Less crime & neglect generated from addiction, addicts no longer ignored by a seemingly disinterested government would create what I'd say would be a more just society. One of those rare instances where everybody wins.

## 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)?

No. This has covered all the bases I'd say.