

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

The Methodist Church in Scotland - approved by the appropriate instance of the church from the Scottish district

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).

The Methodist Church in Scotland

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.

Many people in our congregations and communities have witnessed first-hand the pain and tragedy of addictions and deaths resulting from them in Scotland, and we believe more needs to be done to tackle the crisis. We are deeply concerned about the drug deaths rate in Scotland: 722 in the first 6 months of 2021 according to Police Scotland. We can and must do more to support people with drug addiction in Scotland and especially those seeking recovery

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.

We believe legislation is required to limit potential regional or local discrepancies. We understand from people visiting our self-help groups those suffering from addictions are struggling getting the treatment they need. It seems that the support available is complicated and not always accessible to all. The situation seems also variable depending on local authorities or postcodes.

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)

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It needs to be a fully integrated approach including the various Local Authorities services (mental health, social services...) and Health Boards. IJB may have an important role in the coordination. A legal obligation at all levels of the treatment system is the only way to ensure a fast and decisive response to the issue.

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.

Due to the complexity of addiction and too often its roots in complicated social and health issues, the current procedure seems to not be suitable. It appears there is a need for a more specialised process that takes into account the unique needs of those suffering from addictions but also their carers or/and their families.

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.

To be successful on the long term, any such treatment needs to have the full engagement from the people suffering from addiction. There is no one size suits all. We believe that those suffering from addiction have the option to choose and to engage with the treatment that will be best for them. A comprehensive Right to Recovery Bill needs to take in account the will of the patient to engage and embrace with the recovery process. The new procedure needs to empower those suffering from addiction and not to patronise 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.

Our response to question 5 is valid to this point. It is important to value those who suffer from addiction and to help them to be full active members of our communities. Too often, victims from addictions are demonised and denied right that other patient may have: choice of treatment. Very often in our Holy Scriptures, our Lord asks people "what do you want?" before to heal them. It is a basic question of human decency when helping those in need.

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.

It seems that current policies have not been as efficient as expected. It is time to re-think the overall policy and strategy. A National Funding Scheme would demonstrate the Scottish society commitment to address this issue. It seems that NHS or Local Authorities would have difficulties to find such funding in their current reserves so a national policy with its own national funding scheme appears the most logical.

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.

Addictions is often – not always – associated with economic difficulties. Often it is the poorest or the most isolated or the less literate people who struggle with recovery procedures and treatments in general. We

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:

believe that a Right to Recovery bill will help to level this injustice. Any initiatives reducing addictions and helping with recovery from addiction will save lives but also financial burden on key public services such as health, police, justice or social services to name only few.

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.

Response to point 8 applies to this question: Addictions is often – not always – associated with economic difficulties. Often it is the poorest or the most isolated or the less literate people who struggle with recovery procedures and treatments in general. We believe that a Right to Recovery bill will help to level this injustice. Any initiatives reducing addictions and helping with recovery from addiction will save lives but also financial burden on key public services such as health, police, justice or social services to name only few.

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.

A Scottish Right to Recovery Bill will help a sustained, simple and coherent effort to offer a recovery path to many who currently suffer from addictions in our communities. By offering a legally enforceable, accountable and simple structure, the Right to Recovery Bill will help support future initiatives based what has been successful for patients, their families and the Scottish healthcare system. In this way, we can ensure that Scotland's approach to drug addiction is sustainable and effective for the future.

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