

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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

Manager in a residential recovery community, 10 years experience working with Women and children affected by substance use

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).

Rebekah Whittaker

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?

Partially 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 that there is a significant need for increased residential rehabilitation provision. However in isolation without adequate mental health provision, access to long term trauma therapy and other psychological therapies recovery will not be sustained. Addiction is very often the symptom of complex childhood trauma and if we do not 'treat' the root and focus on addiction in isolation, recovery will be short term. There is a risk of even further increased drug-related deaths for individuals leaving residential rehabilitation. Evidence shows that short term stay and a relapse in residential rehabilitation can be one of the preceding factors to a drug-related death. It is essential that there is a robust safety net to provide tight wrap around care for individuals who are unable to maintain abstinence and therefore maintain a stay in a residential rehabilitation. Ideally, if someone was to leave a rehabilitation service the support with the same staff, therapists and support workers would still be available to them on an outreach basis to support them to maintain and reengage with 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.

Legislation maybe an effective tool however in isolation does not create an opportunity to review current addiction services that are not fit for purpose but continue to be funded.

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)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Accountability could help reduce drug deaths initially but sustained progress can only come from a review over a longer period of time.

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

Unsure

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?

Partially supportive

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

In my role, i see lots of clients that want to stop using substances but are not ready to be abstinent. Coming into an abstinent environment and bringing in substance and hiding this can lead to significant

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?

disruption to the other clients in the community and the safety of their recovery. At times, clients are not ready to honestly assess their addiction and readiness for recovery and therefore can choose a treatment option that they are not ready for. Repeated failure at inappropriate treatment options can create disillusionment and a sense of giving up on recovery, causing people to resist further treatment.

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

Partially supportive

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

Unsure

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:

a significant 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.

A significant increase in costs in the initial instance but a long term reduction in costs for those repeatedly entering the criminal justice system, accessing healthcare for secondary and primary comorbidities. In the long term investing in appropriate and fit for purpose addiction services from families to harm reduction will in the long term reduce expenditure

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)?

Early intervention with families and children and young people is significant in reducing the experiences of trauma and strengthening family systems which in the long term will impact addiction and drug related deaths