

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

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).

Helen Love

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.

My son struggled for many years with alcohol and valium addiction. He died aged 23 of a one off heroin injection. He had mental health problems but was refused help unless he got 'clean' first. Treatment

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

taylored for young people and a safe injecting place with overdose prevention in Aberdeen city centre could have saved him. He did not mean to die.

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 because addicts have been ignored as subhuman for too long. It is a human rights issue. They should be treated as other patients with illnesses. A medical issue.

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.

Local authorities will ultimately be implementing this. We have some very reactionary councilors and civil servants. They seem to be outdated, judgemental and compassionless. They need encouragement to see how much better things could be for addicts, their families, the community.

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.

Addicts desperately need to be listened to but for this to work it needs to be implemented right so those listening to complaints are sympathetic and have some clout to get things changed.

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

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?

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

My son would have only gone for treatment he felt comfortable with. He may have felt desperate at times with his addictions but was still an autonomous human being and would not be forced into anything. Many addicts have anxiety which prevents them taking part in things.

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

Fully opposed

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

If this means that treatment will be compulsory for addicts I do not support it. They are still human. No other medical treatment is compulsory. It should be readily available free. Very good quality, tailored to needs, run by people addicts can trust. But not compulsory. That would be draconian.

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.

The issue of addiction needs money just as all health issues do. It is also a Scotland wide issue in every small town and big city and crosses classes. Can affect anyone. Has wider impact than realized through families and friends affected.

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 reduction 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.

Savings could well be made to policing, A and E admissions and social work costs. Costs could be reduced for premises if this treatment was given from travelling vans. Also more effective outreach from vans.

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.

Privileged people are currently better at accessing what treatment there is i think .more accessible treatment would help level up.

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.

Treating addiction as a health issue has a proven beneficial and better outcome than treating it as criminal. Our society needs these people included not excluded. Better for everyone. No one is better for ignoring the problem.

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)?

Please speak to addicts and existing support groups like ADA alcohol and drugs action in Aberdeen. Consider outreach vans. Look at holistic approaches like Portugal. Follow science. Have options for young and old.