

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).

Aidan Firth

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?

Unsure

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 am unsure of my support for this proposed bill as I do not know what the treatment would entail, as this is different for many people, and in this case may not be the best solution to stop drug deaths, or in the worst case scenario, may actually exacerbate drug deaths. If this bill follows a Portugal style solution (treating

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

drug addiction/possession as not a criminal matter but a health matter) then it would have my full and complete support.

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 on this is needed. What is currently required is not legal and legislation making it so would let the government stop drug deaths much better.

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)

Requirement for the Scottish Government to report progress on duty

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Established targets/standards would be a bad idea in my opinion. This is because this is not an easy task and putting too high expectations too quickly could harm the process and make people it is not succeeding. Having faith in the right to treatment and not putting continual pressure on it and seeing the results come is much better than setting arbitrary targets.

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

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.

People should choose what treatment is best for them within medical reason. People know their bodies the most well and know what will work for them during recovery.

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.

Addiction treatment should never be refused.

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

Fully supportive

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.

I reckon with a better drug treatment system costs would actually go down as less people come in repeatedly for help and actually break the cycle instead of falling into it again inevitably

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.

It would probably help working class communities not to be ravaged by drug use, however it may also be important to note that whilst one can treat the drug use itself, the conditions of people who take drugs can be a big factor of why they start in the first place, and whilst helping individuals is important, you can not just treat the symptoms, you have to treat the disease.

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.

It would absolutely ensure a more healthy society, and if the scientists are listened to in their recommendations (they probably will suggest something similar to Portugal's system!) it would achieve point 5 as well.

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)?

This could be considered as something I have mentioned before, but this needs to be emphasised. Try and open safe consumption rooms. Weaning people off drugs is a lot easier when the stuff they are taking is not going to kill them, they aren't going to overdose, and their addiction can be treated like a smoking addiction is. It also ensures that people know the proper and most safe techniques, and the stuff they are consuming won't be cut with anything else that they are unaware of.