

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:

I am a housing advisor for one of the housing charities, some of my duties include outreach at homeless services, detox centres, soup kitchens, Rehabs etc. in my role I see a lot of addiction in the homelessness sector and see first hand getting people their legal homeless/housing rights and accommodation is just one part of the problem and if I'm honest I sometimes feel we are setting them up to fail, and I myself feel if I could offer people legal rights to both their housing problem and their addiction then in the long term we will see a rise in our economy due to less strain on services with constant repeat offenders, myself included in that, and in the short term we will be saving lives.

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).

Thomas Lyon

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.

I fully support the bill, because I have seen to many friends die of substance abuse with no real help ever being offered, I myself was very nearly a statistic. it's time for a shift/change.

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.

I think yes legislation is required as there are to many CAT team workers Etc. abusing power telling people what they are getting when it comes to help with their substance issues, playing god. and the majority have no idea what a person needs or wants and there are to many hoops to jump through and people are dying waiting on the treatment that suits not what the CAT team tell them they are getting when they are ready. people need to be given a legal choice on their treatment.

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.

I think this bill is the duty of everyone and I include LAs in this as I think suitable housing after your treatment is another part of sustaining being free from substances.

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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.

My reason for this, I bring back to myself again because if I was offered some choices/options to my treatment at the CAT team in the beginning of my addiction, when it had taking over my life, rather than here's 30ml of methadone come back next week and we'll put it up 10ml, following which was a number of years homeless in addiction only choice was to put my methadone up, no suggestions of a treatment centre, or any other alternatives, all choice was first removed by the addiction then enforced by the CAT teams and LAs, I agree that the treatment options will have to have some kind of monitoring, as an addict in recovery myself, if someone had gave me a choice in the height of my addiction I would have perhaps made some bad choices, Chasing a prescription etc. so definite medical guidance needed, along with support for the individual to help them make the right choice, for me it would be best for another person who has made the right choices to help guide them.

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

Fully supportive

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:

a significant 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 have ticked this box as when you look at the long term this will be a significant increase in productivity from individuals free from substances, no more GP appointments, CAT teams, hospital stays, psychiatric services, DWP, criminal justice, legal aid etc, these are all the services I frequented during my addiction, Now I pay tax, council tax, rent, TV licence, NI, there are no more services needed in my support, so the cost benefit analysis would outweigh any reason not to approve the bill.

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

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)?

No Response