

# 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

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

I have worked as a staff nurse in drug and alcohol detox's and rehabs. Also in criminal justice. Have a MSc in addiction studies.

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).

Faith Ougham

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.**

In good in theory, yet there has been many cut backs and stigma for people with addiction issues. Recently was in Glasgow and a homeless person had taken a lot of diazapam. Yet, there was no access or support to help. Was also homeless. There are a number of reasons why people take substances and these are not always dealt with. Examples are lack of appropriate housing, appropriate access to mental health services, which have seen a reduction in service provision and there is a very long wait for appropriate service provision. Could be dead by then.

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.

More mental health support that is appropriate for people with addictions. Also, do not have to wait for 2 years for appropriate mental health support. This area has seen many cut backs and appropriate training is not always available for people with addictions. Also, more appropriate training for GP's, as I have found their knowledge of addictions is poor. I have been accused of being addicted to prescription drugs, when I was not. My husband has been accused of being an alcoholic, for self-medicating for his mental health. So, lack of knowledge and support. People who have mental health issues tend to self-medicate with drugs and/or alcohol, due to lack of support and service provision for people who have mental health issues. This needs to be addressed.

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.**

There has been lack of appropriate enforcement and what is the use of targets, when this is not met appropriately in NHS A&E waiting times, which is one example. Try and enable more appropriate support and however is done, the support is provided, with excellent standards of care.

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.**

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

There is no existing complaints procedure for people who do not receive appropriate support or care when they do not have appropriate treatment for addictions. There needs to be an independent complaints procedure for this area and will uphold any findings from any complaints given.

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.**

Not all addiction treatment works for all people with addictions. An example is veterans. I did some research 4 years ago and it was cited that veterans are trained not to show emotions. So, such things as NA and AA are not appropriate for veterans and there is no specific support for veterans with addictions. There needs to be specialist support for differing issues people face.

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

Unsure

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

It depends on the reason behind why the person is refusing treatment. There needs to be elements of support why and provide extra support, as necessary.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Also depends where funding comes from. Try taxing tobacco and alcohol firms to fund this, also pharmaceutical firms who make addictive medicines.

## 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

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:

**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.**

It is cheaper in the long term to treat people with addictions, than treating issues associated with addiction issues.

## 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?

Slightly 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.**

If it works. I am discriminated against because I am disabled, even though I am protected by this act. Therefore, what do you expect, even though there is a lot of institutional discrimination against people with addictions, so that needs to be dealt with.

## 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 is but, in reality will this occur? Considering I have received discrimination due to a disability. even though I am very intelligent.

## 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