

# 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

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).

Darren Concannon

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.**

Working with people with problematic substance use, I have learned how people hoping and seeking assistance with their addictions can and often believe that help will not happen for them. It is commonly said that people will not receive assistance for their addictions until their circumstances are so severely dire, that the path to recovery seems an almost impossible task. The addiction itself seems to be not

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sufficient to be considered "suitable" for assistance. The reason for this may be the limit resources available at a given time and location, but for the person in the grips of addiction seeking a way out, it reads as a measure of their value to their society.

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 in regards to the right to necessary recovery treatments allows for a greater understanding that the systems in place currently would need to be strengthened in their abilities to ensure treatment is accessible for all that demand it. Funding structures need to be considered when enforcing a cap-less service. Legislation will ensure that the services needed to ensure that treatment is available to all that need and want it are held to scrutiny, and i believe this process will lead to an increase in people receiving better treatments.

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 Health Boards

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

By placing the requirements enforced in this bill at the centre of both health and care services; systematic assessment, appraisal, and regional necessities could be best controlled

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)

**Please explain the reasons for your response. We would welcome comments on any experience you have had with the existing NHS complaints procedure.**

I would be interested in seeing how a specific complaints procedure would be created and to what extent would its variance to the NHS complaints procedure result in a variance in response or results. I suspect that complaints within the current NHS system could function just as well as the variety of potential complaint topics and matters the current NHS system receives now.

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.**

The ability for a person to fully engage with their treatment, understand the options available to them and are given the opportunity to enforce choice and will strengthens the potential effectiveness of the treatment process. Ensuring a fully informed and aware service user is making a free and unpressured decision, with the right to alter this decision should they feel the need to, is preferable in encouraging a more connected and participatory process that is directed by the service user with support where required/desired.

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.**

Ensuring informed and considered decision making occurs, the refusal of treatment must be of the last potential resort.

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

Ensuring funding for these services is essential but the creation of a specific national funding scheme is not necessarily the only option. Ring fencing within budgets could be a consideration.

## 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 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.**

Their should be an increase in cost initially as this bill will ensure that services not yet available will grow to be so, which will incur cost. In time, this cost should be seen to be counteracted in the levelling out of costs occurs at the moment with high hospital bed day usage lowering and a reduction in the lengthy opioid replacement treatments that are broadly used at the moment. The cost of this service should not be feared as it is a national necessity to ensure those in our society are offered as suitable and practical a support as possible given the society they are born into.

## 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.**

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?

Where potential for institutional or self applied stigma may still exist with regards to people with protected characteristics and living with problematic substance use, the scope for an awareness that a road to recovery is a personal right can potentially encourage any person living within these circumstances to hopefully sense a reassurance that their specific circumstances does not negate their ability to help themselves through seeking help and that that help will be available to them.

## 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.**

The potential outcome of this bill could see a more person-centred approach to treatments, locally delivered in each area of the country. This can encourage a reduction in drug related deaths and help heal a society that is suffering from the pain of increased substance use. Having a more healthy and less fractured society will encourage the country to be a better place for people to live and work, allowing more to engage with ensuring our society can thrive within our environmental limits

## 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*