

# 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 am a recovered alcoholic of 20 years who had the good fortune to have rehab. My eldest son died from an alcoholic withdrawal seizure this year. He was NOT offered rehab or much else to help his addiction. That is the reality! People are dying every day through delays to this bill and procrastination on behalf of government. This is needed NOW!

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).

Fred Parry. A Father.

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.**

For too long addiction has been a hidden or closeted illness. Stigma and guilt have killed thousands and it needs to end. My son dies from addiction to alcohol but was not given the treatment he needed. He was in the revolving door of hospital admission and being sent back out to fend for himself or for me and my family to care for. 6 hospital admissions in 6 months all for the same reason, yet no red flag or why? He was 32 years old and he died. That is happening more and more. Scotland cannot call itself a caring, forward thinking country if its citizens are dying in such circumstances. 20 years ago I was given treatment in Rehab where the majority were paid for by NHS and Social Care. It took two weeks for me to be admitted. Now Rehab is the holy grail. My son was told there was no chance of rehab. There was also no chance of addressing his Mental Health which too often runs alongside addictions. Time Scotland stopped the procrastination and had action!

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.

Sadly, I think legislation is needed if for nothing else but to make it clear in law that addicts are human beings and cannot be dismissed as lesser. It will help the many voluntary advocates who are trying their best to help their loved ones.

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

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

Local authorities should be relieved of their responsibilities in this bill. There are too many tiers! Who are the ADP's? They need to be abandoned and admission to treatment like any other illness.

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.**

While I am not in favour per se of a complaints procedure for any NHS treatments, I feel we need it for addictions. The level of ignorance and dismissiveness with medical staff is not good enough. When a consultant speaks to you and says in front of the patient " The only treatment I know for alcoholics is to

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lock them up and throw the key away". You know there is a problem of understanding the illness. That is the response I got from a consultant when my son was in hospital for the umpteenth time! I have an ongoing procedure of complaint, SAER, at the moment which is taking a ridiculously long time of 5 months with no end date. That is a waste of time and money. There needs to quicker responses all round.

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.**

Addiction is a multi faceted illness that has to be treated on an individual basis. In saying that, there are well known and practised treatments that work. While it is not a magic bullet, Rehab is one of the most effective treatments for addiction. Cost is often raised as a reason for not getting more people into rehab but we know this is a false economy. Alcohol misuse is estimated to cost the Scottish economy 3.56 billion per year in 2007, equivalent to £900 per adult. That is not beginning to take the cost of drug addiction or gambling and other addictions. Many addicts are unable to verbalise or show what treatment they want and are so dismissed as being non cooperative. There has to be more effort at the beginning to engage with the addicts and their families or close contacts and advocates. Many addicts are dismissed from treatment because they miss appointments or don't answer their phones. It must be understood that that is part of the illness! Engaging with families and loved ones is an absolute top priority! Data protection is a false shield!

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.**

Prevent treatment. Haven't heard this. But if true it's a disgrace

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.**

We need funding to have a successful programme of treatment.

## 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.**

There of course will be an increase in costs but there is plenty money being wasted in so called treatments that don't work. Do we need ADPs? How much of a saving? Do we need the bureaucracy that surrounds getting treatment? We also have to remember the cost to Scotland from work absences, crime and homelessness all enabled by addiction

## 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.**

Drug addiction disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable in society. By helping to tackle addiction in a sustainable and long-term way, the proposed Bill will help to end cycles of poverty and inequality.

By enshrining the right to treatment in law, the Bill will make sure that no-one is prevented from accessing treatment due to their personal characteristics.

In making Scotland's drug treatment system more accessible and transparent, the Right to Recovery Bill may help increase trust in our healthcare system among protected and vulnerable groups, and encourage more people to come forward for treatment.

## 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.**

By creating legally enforceable systems of accountability and scrutiny for Scotland's addiction treatment system, the Right to Recovery Bill will help make sure that future initiatives are based around what has

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been shown to work for patients, their families and our healthcare system. In this way, we can ensure that Scotland's approach to drug addiction is sustainable and effective for years to come.

Transparent patient feedback and reporting will also mean that those suffering from addiction play a real part in the design of the treatment systems they use, contributing to a more democratic healthcare system.

By reducing the amount of crime and the direct effects of crime caused by drug abuse, the Bill is likely to benefit wider society and reduce costs to the police and criminal justice system.

The Right to Recovery Bill has the potential to improve the outcomes and life choices available for those suffering from addiction issues, as well as of those their carers and supporters.

By increasing the number of people able to contribute productively to society, the Bill will help ensure a strong, healthy and just society, and achieve a sustainable economy.

## 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)?

Let us just make this happen!