

# 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 would like this response to be published anonymously

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).

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 work with lots of people who have struggled with addiction to drugs and/or alcohol and many of whom have been for many years, often since childhood and almost exclusively linked to some incredibly traumatic experiences in childhood. After doing this work for over 6 years, I saw my first client get into rehab earlier this year and this has absolutely changed his life, it has really hammered home the reality of how much addiction can just takes over all aspects of a person's life and seeing this lad, now in his 30s,

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

finally able to discover himself and how incredible he is as a person has been like nothing else. It just shows what this opportunity can do for people, but I know that it's so rare for people to get that - and even if they do the wait is long. It took around 10 months for this lad from the day he told me he wanted to go. Every human deserves the right to this kind of support and healing.

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 don't think I know enough about legislation / policy to say, sorry

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

Established targets/standards

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

Unsure

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.**

It seems logical to allow people to choose their preferred treatment option - obviously having been fully informed of the options first and able to talk these through with addiction specialists and any supportive people they may have eg key workers.

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

Partially supportive

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

I imagine there could be some exceptional circumstances where treatment had to be refused for example

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

the risks were too great towards others (staff or residents of rehab), however this should be very much the exception and all efforts made to mitigate and manage risks in those circumstances.

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

Partially 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 can imagine that whilst there would initially be a sharp increase in costs, this would be levelled out or probably even reduce costs across the board in the long term as the long term costs of addiction (social, criminal justice etc) would be drastically reduced.

I know this is just 1 example but the lad I've been working with who is in rehab now was previously a 'prolific offender', in and out of Police cells, Court, prison, probation, drug services for Methadone or Subutex, regularly hospitalised linked to his drug use whether through overdose, infection from injecting, BBVs, or being assaulted for drug debts etc. The cost of this must have far outweighed the cost of rehab - and I have no doubt that he'll go on to contribute to society, find work, pay taxes etc in future now.

## 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?

Unsure

## 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*