

# 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:**

Clinical professional practice in mental health, public health, rehabilitation.

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

**If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):**

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 opposed

**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.**

Scotland should not require a Bill to re-design addiction services and access to treatment - this should be Scotland's aspiration as a humane and just country for the most marginalised and vulnerable in our society. Attitudinal barriers -coupled with a lack of compassion and understanding in society are barriers the Bill cannot legislate to 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.

Legislation is not required nor the answer for this complex societal issue, cultural change and understanding of addiction is required in Scotland to respond more effectively and humanely.

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.

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

A Bill or any of the above cannot implement or enforce cultural change , compassion and understanding.

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

Partially opposed

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

Complaints take up time and important resources [ which usually occur due to poor communication] creating an additional complaints procedure is not conducive to achieving positive changes in NHS services.  
individuals

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

Every person regardless of their health issues should be enabled to feel supported in their treatment options - however such options should be balanced against a pragmatic approach and understanding of the persons life trajectory - and not decided solely by a medical professional .

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.**

This aspect of the Bill lacks clarity and detail as to how this could be implemented, concern this aspect would raise a person's expectation and fuel a complaints system which would use up valuable resources.

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.**

More detail is required of how national funding scheme would developed and implemented.

## 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 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.**

The financial implications require more detailed discussion and debate, aligned with wider consideration of how services require to innovate, to respond to the complex needs of vulnerable populations [ person's] affected by addiction and poorer health outcomes, to prevent costs to services and enable good health outcomes for this vulnerable population.

## 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?

Negative

**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.**

I cannot anticipate these aspects as the full details of the Bill are not yet available to make an informed decision on these factors.

## 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?

No

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

These aspects require more detail and dialogue with respective stakeholders, to ensure they are achievable for Scotland given the demand on services which may arise. Sustainable development should be integral to achieve improved health outcomes and equity of services, aligned with evidence based practice .

## 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)?

Scotland should not require a Right to Addiction Recovery Bill ,this will become counter productive to tackling the root causes and barriers to addressing the most challenging and underlying complex issues related to addiction. Services require to be redesigned to adopt a proactive and integrative approach to creating good health for vulnerable and marginalised populations who experience health inequities and poorer health outcomes .