

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

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 opposed

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 do not think legislation is desirable or necessary or likely to be effective. To prioritise IN LAW those who have made a choice to become involved with drugs over others in society who have other medical conditions is wrong.

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.

Other (For example Local Authorities - please specify below).

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I do not think that the onus for dealing with the choices made by individuals (to become involved with addictive substances) should be the responsibility of anyone other than the individual. This proposed legislation would place a priority for drug addicts ahead of others with medical conditions.

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

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 opposed

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

Those coming forward for treatment should be supported - but within the available resources of the Scottish Health Service. This proposed legislation could present our health service (and the public) with the possibility of a drug addict being supported by the law to be prioritised over a kidney-failure patient (or any other medical condition which has resulted from chance, genetics, injury, etc)

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

We don't give knee operations to people who are so overweight that a replacement knee would immediately 'fail'; we don't give liver transplants to people who refuse to give up alcohol consumption - there is no point in giving drug addiction treatment when there is clearly no desire (or long-term benefit) to move away from drug use. To make treatment 'demandable' in law lays open terrible waste by people who's lives and thinking processes are completely chaotic.

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

Fully opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response.

If finances are 'finite' then placing addiction resulting from an individual's life-choices - while regrettable - ahead of other health issues is completely wrong.

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.

Since it would be a Scotland-only measure it would not receive allocation of funding via the block grant from the UK Treasury - thus it would have to be funded by a reallocation within the existing Scottish health budget. (see previous objections)

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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

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- 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?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I fail to see how this proposed legislation achieves any of the above criteria. Tackling the problem of drug addiction will require many decades of social change: provision of work, education, redistribution of wealth through the benefits of the previous two elements as well as sound and fair tax systems.

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)?

It is hypocritical of Mr Ross to present this proposal when he will not support the simple change to having safe drug delivery rooms supervised by medical staff. He should be calling for increased taxation to fund his proposal - not hiding his real aim: to cause damage to the Scottish Health Service through redirection (by law) of resources to giving drug addicts re-habilitation on demand and then complaining about increased waiting times for operations or waiting times in A&E.