

Drug Death Prevention (Scotland) Bill

About You

Q1. Are you responding as:

An individual

Q2. 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

Q3. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:

No Response

Q4. 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 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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

John Boyle

Q5. Please provide 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. (Note: We will not publish these contact details.)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Q6. Data protection declaration

In order to proceed, please confirm that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice contained on Page 1

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

Q7. If you are under 12 and making a submission, we will need to contact you to ask your parent or guardian to confirm to us that they are happy for you to send us your views.

Please tick this box if you are under 12 years of age.

Your Views On The Proposal

Q8. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (please note this is a compulsory question)

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Whilst I broadly support the rationale for allowing safe spaces for drug taking my lack of 100% support is that too often policy like this is not joined up with other drug policy.

This bill will help, but is not the only issue in drug policy in Scotland and only with a sweeping group of changes do I feel we will see any meaningful long term change. The overarching body is fine, but will it simply be a talking shop unable to force government to make change.

Q9. Do you think legislation is required, or are there are other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

The only way the bills aims, and indeed any broader policy on drug deaths can be met, is with moving to an evidence based approach to drug policy rather than the current approach which still appeals to the unfounded fears of the middle classes who are often not impacted by drugs in society.

At a core, philosophical level we have to agree that prohibition has failed and that safe spaces and legalisation is the only way to ensure this bill achieves it's aims.

Q10. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to establish overdose prevention centres?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As before. Broadly supportive but alone it is a sticking plaster on a permanent wound. It will help individuals, but we also need legislation to change the approach to drugs to help solve the underlying issue.

Q11. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal for a licensing regime to enable the establishment of overdose prevention centres?

Partially supportive

Please provide reasons for your response, including on the proposed conditions for licensing (see pages 12 to 14 of the consultation document) and on the proposal that health and social care partnerships are responsible for licensing and scrutinising OPCs?

In theory yes, licensing would help allay the fears people have that these centres will just be shooting galleries. But in practice I'm concerned that the already underfunded and undermanned health and social care partnerships will be stretched thin.

Q12. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal for a new body, the Scottish Drugs Deaths Council?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please provide reasons for your response, including views on the proposed functions of the SDDC (see pages 14 to 16 of the consultation document) and on how it should operate in practice.

As stated before, if it's a talking shop that simply gets ignored then why bother? What will this do that existing legislative debate does not. Without any real powers, this feels tokenistic.

Financial Implications

Q13. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

some increase in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

You can't ask social care partnerships to be responsible for the licensing without incurring manpower costs, and given the swinging cuts to public services under SNP this feels unlikely.

Equalities

Q14. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

As always, policies like this bring up quite awful preconceptions of drug users from middle class groups who often have no interactions with them.

We would have to ensure that use of the centres are not stigmatised in any way by employers etc etc

Sustainability

Q15. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? If you do not have a view then skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

No Response