

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

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

[Redacted]

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

No Response

Q4. 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If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. (Note: your reason will not be published.)

[Redacted]

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

[Redacted]

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.)

[Redacted]

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.

No Response

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.

I haven't read the Bill nevertheless, as a Labour member I can assume that your Bill will try to address the issue in a pragmatic and practical manner.

Since the SNP was shamed into some kind of response it now attempts to 'virtue signal' a route of this nightmare. I'm not at all sure what the answer is but I'm highly suspicious of SNP diagnoses and treatment. Our local Inverclyde MP - R. Cowan - sang dumb on the problem for years but his current solution is 'consumption rooms'. Now, our energetic and able HSCP director - Louise Long (now Inverclyde CEO) - advised us Councillors that the 'consumption rooms' solution wouldn't work in a relatively small community like Inverclyde. that didn't deter Mr Cowan.

When I was a Councillor, I saw at first hand the politicisation of drug abuse. Last summer, I went to an open-air meeting of 'Families Against Drugs'. It was made pretty clear that only Mr Cowan MP would speak. He spoke for 10 minutes or so telling his audience that it wasn't right to speak about 'junkies'. That's another thing: I understand that a lot of SG money on this issue has gone into research into stigma. Fair enough, but that's of little direct help to an addict.

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.

I don't know. We now have a big problem and it's a generational problem.

I have no doubt that it can be solved or, at least, be mitigated greatly. But that's going to cost - more money for the NHS, Social Work and Education.

Portugal is often cited as an example of successful intervention. Whether this example could successfully transplant here or suffer tissue rejection isn't clear.

Whatever we do here, we must have a plan based on a pilot.

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

Fully supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

If it works, I'm fully supportive.

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

Fully 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?

If this is the best way to prevent deaths one must be fully supportive.

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

Partially supportive

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.

The title is pretty stark. But if it incentivises its members, goods luck to them.

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.

There will be some initial increase in costs. But the cost to society of ignoring the problem will far outweigh minor changes in taxation.

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.

No Response

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?

Any successful anti-abuse legislation can only benefit society.
At the moment, about half our petty crime is drugs related. Thugs enforce drug debt. Money lenders thrive on addiction. Court cases fail through fear. Successful drug dealers metamorphosise into successful businessmen. Gangsters become role models for the young. And nothing is done.