

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".)

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:

I work for a harm reduction charity

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If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. (Note: your reason will not be published.)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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)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)

Fully supportive

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 think we could use existing legislation but this is not happening quickly enough

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

Fully opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce has been disbanded, and Scottish Government have established a Drugs Directorate with 70 staff - I'm concerned that this churn is delaying action that could potentially take place from established bodies. Having said that, I think the independent status proposed is a good idea.

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?

I would strongly suggest including more detail about providing substantial support for staff who will be

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

working in these centres, eg external clinical supervision, sufficient staffing for wellbeing breaks, on-going CPD to share and learn from good practice in other areas of the world where OPCs are operating.

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.

I agree with the principle of operational independence, to ensure that the SDDC cannot be disbanded suddenly leaving projects like the Scottish Drug Checking Service without funding.

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.

While establishing the SDDC and OPCs will increase cost in the short term, saving lives will save far more money in the longer term.

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.

I would suggest talking to people who are Black, People of Colour, Gypsy/Travellers, people with disabilities/neurodiversity and people who are trans, agender or non-binary and women/femmes about their needs and what potential impacts might be as we know they are currently under-represented in existing drug treatment and support services. It's a golden opportunity not to replicate the white, masc-dominated drug treatment and recovery system we have currently.

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?

OPCs will enhance communities and environments, reducing litter and drug paraphenalia.

They will also make our economy more sustainable by saving lives in the longer term and reducing pressure on A and E departments in the shorter term.

We currently have a society that is weakened, less healthy and less just than it could be because we do not provide OPCs.