



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

Fully supportive

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

The need for action to reduce drug overdose deaths in Scotland is stark. There has been a more than fivefold increase in drug deaths in Scotland since 1996. International evidence including from the Netherlands and New York shows that Overdose Prevention Centres reduce deaths and reduce harm from drugs.

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.

Legislation is overdue. In Scotland the moving average for the rates of deaths from drug overdose is continually increasing. In 1996 there were 244 deaths – this has steadily increased to 1330 in 2021. The number of deaths has increased each year since 2013. (there was drop of 9 between 2020 and 2021 – it should be noted that a pilot Overdose Prevention Centre operated between September 2020 and September 2021).

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

Fully supportive

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

The provision of Overdose Prevention Centres can be viewed as a public health measure. There is no evidence that they encourage drug use and there is a growing body of evidence that they reduce harm, including deaths from drug misuse. Action is urgent – every day there are three families who lose a loved one through drug misuse.

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?**

It is important that Overdose Prevention Centres are properly licensed and professionally staffed in order that those who use them are supported. This would ensure that equipment was sterile and safely disposed of, that those who use the facility meet minimum entry requirements and that there is no contravention of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

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

Fully 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.**

Given the scale of the challenge facing us, it is both important and desirable that we adopt and spread best practice on the operation of Overdose Prevention Centres across Scotland as quickly as possible. In addition we require a new approach to reduce drug deaths in Scotland and the creation of a SDDC, independent of Government but with the ability to set delivery policies with the Health and Social Care Department, will help ensure some focus and priority is given to this challenge.

## 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?

**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.**

Although the proposed legislation will incur some additional costs, there will be cost savings from a reduction in health and medical services required for people who would otherwise overdose if no OPCs are available. The consultation indicates that in the City of Glasgow alone, regular drug users cost over £28million to the NHS from 2014-16. OPCs would significantly save on A&E attendance, acute inpatient days and day admissions as well as reduce the future costs of HIV treatment because materials used in OPCs would be fully sterilised and therefore reduce/remove the chance of infection.

## 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?

*No Response*