

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Dr Anni Donaldson

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.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The rate of deaths from drug-related causes in Scotland is a national disgrace. Drug misuse and drug-related deaths are a public health issue not a criminal justice one. The Misuse of Drugs Act and the so-called 'war on drugs' have done nothing to reduce the amount of Class A drugs in circulation nor the deaths from overdose and related health problems. Politicians, until now, have done nothing for the groups of people affected nor for the context in which drug use thrives. It overwhelmingly affects working class people living in poor or deprived communities which since the 1980s have been severely affected by de-industrialisation, the expanded reach of organised crime into Class A drug sales and the failure of the social welfare and criminal justice system to implement effective policies to support people affected by unemployment, poor educational support, homelessness and poor housing, mental ill health and health inequalities. The proposed Bill, while not a solution to the legacy of all of these issues, will target those at most risk of harm on the spot where they need it. It will also provide them with access to the health and social care support that they need. This Bill is long overdue and it is sad that drug-related deaths had to reach the appalling levels that they have before politicians had the courage which Paul Sweeney has shown to step up and try to bring about change. Scotland is very conservative in its attitude to drug law reform among other things and the current Scottish Government has been scandalously neglectful of its policy framework and action to help people who are among the most vulnerable in our society. Politicians! Please support this bill. Show you are in touch with the more progressive approach taken to drug policy in Europe and the US and prove to your citizens that you can be bold enough to take an independent line.

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.

yes legislation is required. Without it reform would not happen or at best would happen piecemeal across the country. This has to be legislated to ensure a consistent, country-wide approach to a national problem even though the main centres are in the industrial areas. The whole country needs to be behind this.

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.

I thought I had done that in my previous response.

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?

Licensing would place the Centres on a firm regulatory footing which is needed to ensure the safety of service users and staff. The Drug and Alcohol Partnerships are not, in my opinion, dynamic enough bodies in their approach to this issue. They have existed for many years and have presided over the drug misuse landscape and achieved very little other than the current shocking increase in deaths. It might be better to rethink oversees the licensing arrangements or at least evaluate the effectiveness of these partnerships to date.

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.

A fully independent body Drug Death Council, separate from the Scottish Government is essential to oversee progress in reducing drug deaths and also hold ministers accountable for that progress or any shortcomings. There is no time to waste on this issue, people are dying or at risk of dying every day. Change needs to come about quickly and those responsible need to be held accountable for the pace and impact of changes.

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 reduction 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.

The cost of health and social care for individuals with drug problems, the cost to their families and communities is currently high. Preventing drug deaths will surely bring about a reduction in the costs as people are healthier and encouraged and supported to lead different lives.

I don't personally care how much it costs, this is a vital social issue. Money can be found to finance appallingly mismanaged ferry construction for example. This government needs to invest more in the working class communities where drug deaths happen if they are serious about making our country one where all people can thrive and live their best life.

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.

It is up to you to undertake the Equality impact assessment on the proposed Bill. I look forward to reading it.

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?

Reducing drug deaths, removing injecting from our cities' public spaces will have a positive impact on the environment. if vulnerable people no longer have to hide away in dangerous areas to inject it will have a positive impact on their sense of safety and reduce anxiety. Knowing you have a safe place where people will support you to engage in your habit and give you support to manage or perhaps end your habit must be beneficial to a person's physical and mental health and that of their family. Reducing the stress alone will be a game changer. If people are able to manage and possibly end their drug habit with adequately resourced follow on care and rehab services it will create a much stronger population now and in the future.