



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.**

This bill seems to take a practical and realistic approach to handling the sensitive political issue of deaths due to drug overdose. This is an issue which needs to be tackled in Scotland and the proposals outlined within this bill tack and evidenced based and non-partisan approach to doing so. Whilst overdose prevention centres should not been seen as a long term solution to the drug related death problem in Scotland, there is nothing I can see in this bill to indicate including OPCs in the future public health framework. Accordingly I think this bill will provide a vital first step on the necessary path to reduce not just deaths due to drug use, but drug use in general.

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 legislation is required as it will enable a unified and consistent approach to be deployed across Scotland. This will prevent any potential legal issues that might come from partial implementation in some council areas and not others, and also enables democratic oversight of the entire process by the people of Scotland through the elected parliament in Holyrood.

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.**

These are vital if we want to reduce the number of people dying from drug overdoses. To not act is to condemn more people in our society to death through not providing a very basic service that could save their lives.

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?**

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

This licensing proposal would place the framework under which licensing would take place under professional oversight and out of a political arena. It would enable evidenced based decisions to be taken by members of the local community, whilst ensuring that there was a uniformity of approach across Scotland.

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.**

I fully agree with the proposals for an SDDC outlined in the consultation document. This line in particular stuck out to me: 'to ensure consistent and coordinated messaging.' Surely we have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic that lack of coordination in response to a public health crisis costs lives, and the drug death problem in Scotland is a public health problem. Accordingly, it should be tackled as such and the SDDC is proposed to function as a public health body, which has my wholehearted support.

## 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?

no overall change 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 amount of money being allocated in this bill is a pittance compared to the overall level of money being spent by the Scottish government. Public spending is a vital part of providing a public service.

## 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?

This bill will help in the process of Scottish society moving past the terrible drug death issue we have, and into a future where we take a responsible, safe and medical approach to drug taking and providing care for those with drug abuse problems.