

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 is an important and timely proposal, with Scottish drugs deaths remaining stubbornly high. Furthermore, given the proliferation of Government appointed 'taskforces', etc, a statutory footing would be more appropriate for a body designed to deal with such an important issue.

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.

It would not be possible to establish a statutory body or a licensing regime without legislation. Legislation is clearly the only route to achieve the proposal's aims.

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.

With respect to the role that OPCs can play in reducing drugs-related harm the evidence is quite conclusive. I am fully supportive of this aspect of the proposal.

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 support the principle of a licensing regime, however, I am concerned about who should operate it and how it would be financed.

First, I am not convinced that Health and Social Care Partnerships have the relevant expertise or staff to operate a licensing system. Licensing is extremely complex, and a quasi-judicial function. Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) do not have the necessary expertise to operate such a system, and the introduction of such a system would almost certainly divert resource away from other priorities. I believe that local authorities would be the most appropriate body for operating the licensing system, with a statutory requirement to consult with (or perhaps even seek the approval of) the relevant HSCP.

I am also not clear as to who would be operating these facilities. It seems likely to me that HSCPs would end up commissioning such services, in which case it would not be at all appropriate for the HSCP to be responsible for licensing.

The bill would also have to be clear about who bears the cost of licensing.

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 support the establishment of a statutory body, however, it is wholly unrealistic to expect government to allow the Council to set its own budget. A more robust framework for financing the Council will be needed.

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.

The consultation document makes a convincing case for a reduction in indirect costs, however, the proposals would certainly incur some (albeit relatively modest) direct costs to the Scottish Government.

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