

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

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

I am a cannabis user for medical reasons, as well as a drug reform activist. I have the opinion that full drug reform is needed in Scotland and the further UK, abandoning the pipedream of prohibition and move to a more regulated approach of drug management.

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Owen Moxey

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.

I believe the only way to mitigate the avoidable drug deaths, we need to facilitate the use of drugs without stigma. Drugs have been used for about as long as the existence of humanity, trying to stop that goes against human nature and breeds a dangerous field of greed and death. By allowing users a safe space to use the substance they do, where they can be supplied with a clean, untampered and measured dose, with clinical observation in case of emergency. This puts the danger straight into the hands of those trained to deal with the situation, rather than a dingy alleyway with nobody to save them should the worst happen. People deserve dignity and help to deal with their problems, and we need to abandon the rhetoric that all substance users are going to be problematic. We need to stop focusing on sobriety and look for alternatives in other "drugs" such as cannabis and psychedelics to help break the cycle. Criminalising users creates a destructive cycle of reoffending, giving users a safe space facilitates progress.

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 believe that we need to legalise all substances and regulate. In the same measure I believe that alcohol needs to be reviewed and reregulated, removing advertising and in store offers that promote alcohol abuse. If we legalise, we can fully regulate the substances, taking the dangerous element of drug use out of the picture, where dealers greed will lead to drugs being cut with anything from paracetamol through to rat poison, or if we look to the states, even more damaging substances like fentanyl. The dangers of drug use stem from bad policy making, and systematic racism and classism in both government and policing. Its time we changed tact and moved towards a culture that doesn't stigmatise drug use.

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.

As I stated before, facilitating safer drug use is the best way to avoid unnecessary deaths. By offering users a safe environment to use drugs, where they are overlooked by trained healthcare staff, paired with regulated substances offered on site, we can cut out the dangers of drug use, as well as counter the other social aspects of drug use, such as used needles being left on streets, public drug use, having to commit crimes to secure their next fix, it's not just about letting people take drugs, it protects the community along side. If these facilities are paired with housing, welfare and gp services then you start to create a foundation for people to get back on their feet. We need to stop the stigmatisation of drug use against welfare claims or sanctions for failed drug tests. That's why we see people reoffend when they get out of prison, because they don't get sanctioned in prison, they don't need money, they can't take their home away from them. We need to fix things to break the reoffending cycle and to establish some dignity for drug users.

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?

I fully agree that licensing should be a strict requirement, with strict guidelines to follow, we cannot provide these centers to substandard levels, otherwise we will be setting ourselves up to fail. Given that the point of contact for users should be healthcare based I agree that health and social care take care of licensing and making sure OPC's maintain high standards of care and practice throughout its existence.

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 believe that a single Drugs Minister cannot manage the task of controlling the Drug Deaths issues we face in Scotland. We have had promises made of defiance of Westminster to provide these facilities, and so far we have had very little response in any meaningful action in tackling drug deaths. I feel that a Council headed up to tackle the issues surrounding drug deaths is sorely needed, and will provide a much more defiant voice than we currently have.

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?

a significant 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.

I feel that we would likely see a significant reduction in costs over the long term. Initially we will see lots of spending, it will be a daunting prospect for many to spend that much on services to facilitate drug use. However, where we will see costs saved, is in policing, prisons, courts, hospitals and many other major services. We will see a domino effect by helping those in need rather than shunning them as criminals.

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 feel like we would see a massive shift in culture towards drug users. If we properly educate people around the real risks and harms of drug use, vs the stigma that surrounds it, I would hope that we see more acceptance of drug users, and potentially on society as a whole. If we can learn to see past people's first impression and take the time to think about what we don't know about a person we may become more empathetic as a society, potentially rebuilding communities.

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?

I feel like putting more time and effort into people who have hit rock bottom, giving them a chance to reshape themselves back into society, then we are far more likely to see people returning to work who otherwise would have spent the majority of their lives in and out of prison being a "drain on the state"