

# 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:**

Retired Police Officer - 2018 - Full service in Strathclyde and Police Scotland.

Extensive experience in Drug Enforcement and drug deaths both as PC and DC.

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 (Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".)

Ex Police Scotland

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.)

XXXXXXXXXX

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)

Partially supportive

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

In terms of the use of the word Drugs and Drug Deaths, this proposal seems appropriate in respect of persons who are addicts using class A drugs in situations of urban or domestic chaos.

I am concerned that recreational use of drugs such as Cocaine by a very significant proportion of the pub and club culture is being confused with the usual demographic of addicts or folks who might be classed in street terms as Junkies. Are we to offer safe rooms in pubs and clubs or at festivals and what is the likely bonus in that where organised crime is concerned. As it stands Scottish Justice and sentencing does not remotely disenfranchise drug supply and dealing. Lives may be saved and that is all well and good but has it been considered that to change a statistic in a demographic does not address the health impact of long term drug use where the suppliers are potentially going to profit from the market opportunity and messaging gap that there is little or no accountability for taking drugs from uncontrolled suppliers. The Lord Advocate seems happy that these facilities do not breach MDA 1971 but there is I suspect a lack of clarification between the nature of drug taking such as in clubs and pubs by large numbers of, employed, otherwise non criminalised or chaotic lifestyle as associated with addicts and addicts who are very clearly at risk. What I am saying essentially is that to relax drug use legislation to save lives also demands that the courts and sentencing for importation and supply is ramped up and applied to entirely disenfranchised supply at an organised level. Currently the application of law fails to disenfranchise drug use and Scotland in general has a major cultural issue with anti social behaviour involving drugs and alcohol.

My other concern is the location of safe rooms. Citing other cities and the impact of behaviour and crime on the local community is in my experience utter nonsense where Glasgow is concerned. Ask the residents of The Saltmarket and Bell Street if those areas have improved or are no better since the closure of The Bell Street Hostels, Hope House and Glasgow District Court. These places are needed but as is the case in Scotland, everybody agrees with Liberal tolerance and understanding in society,,,,, as long as its not down my street. In knowing Glasgow I am not surprised and the assurances of other cities in other countries do not persuade me any more than the argument about easing drinking in public in Glasgow because they know how to behave in Europe, dont binge drink and get involved in non stop anti social behaviour unlike Glasgow. These concerns may seem unrelated but nothing I have seen appears to distinguish between a very serious problem of overdose in one relatively small demographic, the health approach to fix that and the consequences of a wider rush or push to an entirely decriminalised drug policy society in Scotland unless the Government become the suppliers of safely manufactured recreational drugs currently being supplied by organised criminals. I am not against saving lives and safe rooms and something needs to be changed but there are some very complex juxtaposed concepts that as far as I can see have not been answered in the wider context.

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 a legislative framework and review process with ongoing local consultation is essential.

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

Partially supportive

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

Already stated in 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?

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 see no issues as long as the police are part of the partnership.

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.**

What currently in place has not worked.

## 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 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.**

If this rolls into safe rooms being required to address all demographic of drug taking then id be concerned about a Government responsibility being passed onto business / event owners.

## 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?

Yes and as i stated im a previous answer, messaging is important and do we create a larger relatively unseen problem of normalising uncontrolled illicit drug use by solving another problem of overdose that certainly needs solved.