

Proposed Domestic Abuse (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to make provision for the prevention of domestic abuse and improve support for those affected, including by requiring: those convicted of offences related to domestic abuse to provide information for a register; use of this information to prevent further harm; use of rehabilitation measures in relation to offences related to domestic abuse; collation and reporting of data related to domestic abuse; and domestic abuse education in schools.

The consultation runs from 29 August 2022 to 20 November 2022

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

No Response

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).
(Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

[REDACTED]

Please provide details of 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.

We will not publish these details.

[REDACTED]

Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

Partially opposed

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I believe there are potential issues with several areas of this bill including rehabilitation and service access.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Through the Equally Safe strategy, I believe we already have a comprehensive approach to domestic abuse in Scotland so further legislation is not indicated. The Scottish Government have prioritised this area over the last few years and MSPs' time and energy should be devoted to ensuring that funding for the delivery of this strategy is maintained and extended.

Domestic Abuse Register

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on creating a register of those convicted of domestic abuse related offences?

Neutral (neither agree nor disagree)

Please explain the reasons for your response. Please include any views you have on the list of policy details set out in bold on pages 23 and 24 of the consultation document.

Police Scotland already conduct essential and useful work around identifying perpetrators through their investigative work and partnership initiatives such as MATAAC and DA Disclosure Scheme. There is potential for partial duplication by introducing a register.

Rehabilitation Measures

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of introducing mandatory rehabilitation measures for those convicted of domestic abuse?

Partially opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response. Please include any views you have on the list of policy details set out in bold on page 26 of the consultation document.

The focus on rehabilitation for example appears misinformed - our frontline experience tells us that the efficacy of DA offender rehabilitation is extremely limited, particularly in relation to high tariff offenders. The cultural issues which underlie domestic abuse perpetration are thoroughly entrenched in our society and a rehab course does not fix this. In face in our experience many perpetrators effectively "weaponise" these courses and successfully extend their abuse by manipulating the professionals involved. Our experience of the Caledonian System has not been positive on the whole.

Data

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposals for data collection and reporting set out in the consultation document in bold on pages 30 and 31?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response including what information could usefully be collated and which groups in society could most benefit from improved information on their access to domestic abuse services and support.

Quite a lot of data is already collected in relation to DA

Education

Q6. Which of the following best expresses your view of introducing mandatory education in schools on domestic abuse?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response including any comments on the issues in bold on page 32 of the consultation document.

In my experience it is difficult to introduce mandatory education as schools have such high levels of autonomy. A more consistent approach to this aspect of education would be helpful though.

Financial Implications

Q7. 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.

A new offenders register for example would incur potential costs for Police Scotland.

Equalities

Q8. 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

Q9. 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

General

Q10. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

Another area referred to is the minorities access to frontline services - as manager of a Women's Aid DA support service, we ensure that our services are fully accessible to all groups of clients. The Women's Aid network came from grassroots origins and have always been committed to equality of access to services.