

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)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

We offer educational and long term recovery courses and support to men and women affected by abuse. We work separately with victims and perpetrators, safely and confidentially. Our courses challenge behaviour, beliefs, impact on victims and alternative behaviour to abuse. We foster trauma awareness through the ACE's study so that participants can explore the bigger picture of their lives and experiences. This approach has proved very successful in enabling changed behaviour and empowerment.

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 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).

No Feart Community Interest Company

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.)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

We are fully supportive of this bill due to the process which will come from registering perpetrators. That it will highlight their need for a program of changed beliefs about intimate partners and children and how their behaviour affects victims. This will be an opportunity for more organisations to be able to work together to facilitate change and hopefully embrace processes that work effectively in rehabilitating individuals. To be able to look at the person from the perspective of trauma and work towards a non judgemental process of change.

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.

Yes legislation is required to ensure the process will be followed through. My concern is that every professional should be approaching individuals in a ubiquitous process with the same attitudes and compassion toward change. Accountability is key but so is a workable approach in the process.

Domestic Abuse Register

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

Fully supportive

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.

- a) We believe there should be a flag for first time offenders and then a definite process for anytime afterwards.
- b) The level of repeat offences or complaints against the person and they should be on as long as it takes to see a positive change in their behaviour. Reports should be taken from ex partners and children where appropriate.
- c) Change of address, new relationships, recovery programs progress, banned from dating sites.
- d) Police, Social workers, courts, hospitals. They would be more able to protect victims more efficiently from trying to navigate services.
- e) New partners should receive information as soon as possible because the level of manipulation and 'love bombing' abusers do to partners may cloud their judgement as the relationship takes on form.

Rehabilitation Measures

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

Fully supportive

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.

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

- a) Rehabilitation from perpetrating must be a program that challenges by clearly stating the behaviour, the beliefs of the abuser, the impact on victims and the opposite alternative behaviour.
- b) Local social enterprises/charities working with the demographic that have a compassionate approach to the process of change - also in the understanding of how to approach and be non judgemental in their approach. Early intervention could be implemented at the stage of complaints or those who commit other crimes as there is a very large link to domestic abuse in criminals.
- c) A central database may be an idea where all organisations involved will be able to work with individuals according to risk, engagement, location etc
- d) Being ineligible may be if there was a one off offence with no criminal background and someone may be wrongly accused.
- e) Being an alternative to a custody sentence should have conditions of rehabilitation psychoeducational courses alongside long term recovery follow on course and perhaps a course for substance addiction where appropriate.
- f) Depending the severity of the offender, a minimum of one year?
- g) There should be a collection of organisation brought together with their accredited course work and proven evaluations from previous participants. This should be shared out according to different components such as location, capacity and funding.
- h) If the offender is working, then they should be able to pay for this - according to budget. If not working then a fund should be available to the organisation to offer free facilitation.
- c)

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?

Fully supportive

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.

As the proposal states - more detailed data collection showing the extent of domestic abuse in underrepresented areas will ensure local services, already existing services that already connect with that demographic will either be trained or access domestic abuse specialist facilitators to be available to clients. That way individuals can be reached at the place they are already connected giving confidence to connect, be empowered with new information and possibly report. This must be done in such a way where 'risk' is always at the heart of relating to individuals and their families. All underrepresented groups should have access to abuse education including men, women and children. Working with men is especially important to give abuse education courses across all demographics ensuring a preventative approach is available.

Education

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

Fully supportive

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

- a) We suggest 1.5 hours each week for new information from an abusive awareness course for children to

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

have discussion, write things down and add to the presentation. Interaction is key for the information to go in.

b) The content should be adapted to age appropriate learning ability and done in a visual and interactive manner. The abusive person should be a gender neutral character where the child will be able to assign the behaviour to the correct person. If the content brings up a trauma for the child then training must be given to a supportive person aware of the impact of abuse on children so that an appropriate 'domestic abuse trained' person can assess whether a referral should be made to other services or not. Risk is crucial at this stage as the child may be in danger if they communicate the new information at home.

c) I believe it should be a mix of external experts and 'willing' trained domestic abuse champions at school who are being continually trained.

d) All schools should have a mandatory curriculum on domestic abuse and healthy relationship education.

e) From Nursery age and appropriate to the child's age. Perhaps using toys with neutral colours?

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.

We think the costs are more if we don't do anything to prevent domestic abuse further. Costs to the mental health services, physical health requiring medication due to unresolved abuse and trauma costs far more than preventative measures. The impact that unresolved issues relating to abuse causes does reach to the whole family system and beyond. Surely if we spend money on psychoeducational courses together with behaviour tools on responding to bad behaviour of ourselves and others, we will provide individuals and their families a new way of living life filled with practical tools to choose the alternative. We see success every day in the simple interactions with ourselves and others.

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.

We do not see this as being negative as long as the educational tool on behaviour incorporates the demographic and ability of the individual's learning/understanding of the information. Everyone wants to talk about bad behaviour, have a name for it, an understanding of why a person behaves in this way, the impact on victims and what the alternative good behaviour is. This sets a standard and holds individuals to accountability in taking action. We must also be compassionate, understanding, trauma informed and aware of risk to all in the family throughout the process.

This requires everyone get on board with training, working together, listening to those who have lived

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.

experience and those who know the demographic and already established in relationship to individuals, with risk always at the forefront of decision making.

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?

As long as there is someone consulting the process all the way through it's primary stages into the different areas of connection for the individual and their family, monitoring the needs, teething problems, checking effective communication and collaboration of services, ensuring training is appropriate and based in a trauma informed approach. It is our understanding that the Scottish government is an ACE aware nation? We ask that all organisation that are actively working with that ethos to be at the forefront of discussions around a working policy and procedure for this Bill. Most perpetrators will respond more to the question - What has happened to you? more than What have you done? This is our approach and we have success from our work with perpetrators - keeping victims safe at all times.

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)?

we would like to offer our consulting services to the different stages of this Bill and it's policies and procedures as Lynn was the child who experiences so many failings in the system from school, social services and offer of support for her family as her father abused her mother and then followed through in his threat to kill her mother where he stabbed her to death in front of his two children. Lynn and her sister have received great recovery throughout the years and are now helping others to recover, be challenged and change through their live's work. They both represent children, women and men as victims and perpetrators in separate safe locations and platforms. They want to see the whole family given a chance to be safe, recover and change. We are happy to help in any way we can to make this a working reality.