

# 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.

an individual

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.**

[REDACTED], has been subjected to constant, unrelenting psychological abuse for 8 years, suffers ill health because of it and now the children are also being traumatised. Better help is urgently needed.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

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).

Alys Cameron

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.**

Having witnessed the unrelenting psychological abuse that [REDACTED] has suffered for 8 years with almost no help from Police or Domestic Abuse Teams, I believe this bill is much needed and overdue. Enough is enough. These abusers permeate your life with their bullying behaviour and the unseen victims are often the children who have no voice. This bill must be allowed to progress so that our society can become a better and safer place for all.

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.

Absolutely we need legislation. There is nothing in our Scottish law to protect victims of psychological abuse, particularly if the victim and perpetrator are living apart. Police need to be better trained to have more compassion and understanding of the cumulative effect of psychological abuse. Why should an individual have the right to a happy life taken away from them? Why should a calculating individual have the right to deploy insidious tactics to bring another individual to his/ her lowest point? Children too must be taken into the equation as often they have no voice in this situation.

## 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.**

I believe the creation of a register is completely necessary:

The register will hopefully act as some sort of deterrent for perpetrators.

The register will be invaluable to individuals considering entering relationships.

The register will hopefully prevent perpetrators moving from area to area, leaving a trail of destruction.

I believe anyone who has been reported to Police or the domestic abuse team on more than one occasion and for whose behaviour, events can be corroborated, should be placed on the register

The perpetrator should remain on the register until rehabilitation has taken place and or until a period of eg 2 years has passed without reoffending.

I believe the offender should be required by law to declare his status on the register as per any other crime committed.

I believe any member of the public and any organisation eg dept of education, Doctors etc should all have access to the register.

## 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.**

I believe everyone deserves a chance and hopefully proper rehabilitation would allow the offender to come to view his previous behaviour as unacceptable.

Rehabilitation might include watching testimonials of those who had suffered domestic abuse or listening to talks given by victims.

Reoffenders of more than 2 incidents should be required to take rehabilitation.

Asking the offender to pay for rehabilitation sounds like a great idea but I can't see that happening in reality.

## 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.**

I believe an annual report would suffice.

The report could include statistics for the various types of abuse ie physical/sexual/psychological

It could include statistics for male versus female victims as well as male versus female offenders

It could include statistics for abuse within a family home setting versus separated couples living in different locations

It could include statistics on ethnicity and age

## 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.**

I believe making children aware would do several things:

For those living in circumstances where domestic abuse exists, it might give comfort to those children knowing they are not "the only ones" in that situation.

It might make some children realise that what their family member is doing, is unacceptable

It may give some children the awareness of help available and encourage them to seek assistance rather than suffer or watch someone suffer in silence

Unfortunately schools are already struggling to find time for everything but this topic might come under moral education which should be a priority. I believe there is too much time spent on aspects of "other religions" and perhaps some time could be taken from there.

This topic can be made suitable for any age group just like many other aspects of education and could start at any age

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

I believe this topic should be delivered by the Police, providing they have been properly trained to deliver a compassionate viewpoint

## 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.**

I believe the setting up of the register, while of course costing money to maintain, would hopefully save money in years to come in terms of reduced call outs to domestic abuse incidents and also related health / hospital issues would also hopefully reduce

## 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.

I believe awareness is better than ignorance. A society must know where it's at in order to better itself.

## 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)?

I believe the proposed bill should form part of the equation in family court. Eg if a single parent finds himself / herself in family court there could be an "alert" of some sort on the paperwork submitted, to show the Sheriff ( who has a very small amount of time for each case) that this individual is either a victim of domestic abuse or indeed an offender of domestic abuse. Eg a parent who is constantly taking the other parent to court, for whatever reason, could be maliciously going through these motions in order to place financial difficulty on his / her ex partner. The Sheriff would notice the alert, perhaps dig into the case a little deeper and the perpetrator could be asked to pay court costs which are astronomical.