

# 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

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

**If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):**  
[REDACTED]

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.)

Fully supportive

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

It is important that potential victims of domestic abuse are able to be "warned".

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.

I think legislation is required otherwise protection and help can be dependent on people's post code. Some areas will have excellent support and information sharing others will not.

## 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.**

Whilst I am fully supportive of creating a register I think there have to be strong safeguards to prevent it being used inappropriately. Eg someone being held on the register longer than is necessary, the possibility of "witch hunts" being carried out by members of a community. I think the register needs to be a positive thing; helping to protect vulnerable partners but also enabling rehabilitation of perpetrators.

## 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.**

Rehabilitation is vital and should be mandatory otherwise there is no chance of changing people's behaviour patterns and the problem of domestic abuse will never have a chance of being solved.

a) Rehabilitation should be able to address the causes of domestic abuse rather than just the symptoms, otherwise it is just a sticking plaster and will not bring long term resolution. There maybe contributory factors such as concern about finances and housing, mental health etc. So rehabilitation has to include far more than just anger management. It should include relationship skills, respect for others and self, stress management, financial budgeting and assistance, information about services that are available to offer help in times of stress, whether financial, housing or relational.

c) Can one size fit all in terms of rehabilitation? Would a different programme be required for those who exhibit domestic abuse through violence from those who exhibit domestic abuse through coercive behaviour?

f) Rehabilitation should be started during a custodial sentence. This could be continued once custodial

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

sentence has been completed to serve as support as well as rehabilitation.

h) Payment of rehabilitation measures by the offender. I would be concerned that making the offender pay for rehabilitation would result in their non-compliance or in certain circumstances put more financial pressure on them which could exacerbate domestic violence.

## 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?

Unsure

**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 do not feel qualified to comment on this question.

## Education

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

Partially supportive

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

Whilst I think education about domestic abuse is a good thing I am concerned about the amount of extra subject matter that has to be covered by schools over and above ordinary 3Rs education.

In answer to your specific questions:

a) amount of teaching time - I have no idea

b) content of education - again I do not feel well placed to answer this but it has to include things like respect for others, tolerance, learning to compromise and communicate, as well as anger management. Many of these I suspect are already covered in other areas of personal development. Specifically for domestic abuse information about where you can go for help and support, cultural implications and legal implications could also be of help.

c) Education should be delivered by external experts. This will reduce pressure on teachers and probably deliver better information.

d) all schools should deliver education on domestic abuse - no demographic is immune from domestic abuse.

e) I don't know

## 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?

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.**

I think cost could be quite high - the police will require extra resources to hold and maintain the register as well as ensure the correct dissemination of information.

There will be costs incurred in running rehabilitation classes/groups and potential follow up of clients. There will be a cost at the school level if outside experts are used.

I think the financial impact is likely to be felt by the local tax payer.

## 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?

This law could have a positive impact on society. It could improve the mental health of those being abused as well as their families. It could improve educational attainment of any children living in an abusive household.

## 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)?

*No Response*