

# 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.**

I am a 41 year old mother to twin daughters. I have been emotionally abused by [REDACTED] for the past 10 years. I have paid almost £40,000 in legal fees, including court fees.

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).

Victoria 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.**

I have been emotionally abused by [REDACTED] for the past 10 years. There has been no one to help me and no one has cared. I have spent almost £40,000 in legal fees. The sheriff in the family court does not care and legally there is nothing that they have done to help me. I have contacted the police on several occasions and similarly there is nothing that they have done to help me. Put simply, emotional abuse is not seen as a criminal offence and this needs to change. The accumulative effect of controlling behaviour over many years is devastating in someone's life. Just because you cannot see the abuse, by way of a cut a bruise, does not mean that the abuse is not taking place.

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.

For me, the Bill will only work if the police, solicitors and sheriffs are educated in it, understand and utilise it. There needs to be a point where the perpetrators are held to account for their actions. At the moment there are no repercussions for them, and as such they continue to abuse. They know that they can get away with it.

## 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 register is a good idea. My own views are that if someone is abusive in their personal life, then they will also have this mindset and behaviour in other areas of their lives. Perhaps they are bullies at work, or are controlling at the local football team where they volunteer as a coach.

## Rehabilitation Measures

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

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

**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.**

To be honest I am not sure what the data shows about the benefits of rehabilitation. There is a cost involved with rehabilitation and it follows that this would need to be justified with outcome data. For me personally, I believe that there needs to be a hard consequence for abuse, such as fines, community service, sentencing and to be placed on a register. There also needs to be more of a focus on the victim.

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

The reality is that many abusers are narcissistic and as such they rehabilitation will actually play into their hands as they can manipulate that to make themselves into the victims.

## 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 am supportive of this, however I do not understand how you can decide who is part of an underrepresented community? I would argue that everyone is equally entitled to help regardless of demographics.

## 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.**

This may be helpful particularly for children who are experiencing abuse with a parent. This may help them to understand that this is wrong.

## 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 reduction 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 that there would be a reduction in costs, if there were consequences for the perpetrator much earlier on in the 'pathway'. I have spent almost £40,000 in legal fees trying to deal with things like consent for taking my children on holiday. This should not be allowed to happen. The abusers continue to abuse

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?

because they get away with it, and costs build up. If this was dealt with immediately it would save time and money,

## 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 can only comment that this new law would enable all people to live a life free from guilt, anxiety, stress and worry due from abuse. This should be everyone's right.

## 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?

The proposed new law could only help the victims. As a victim I feel that no one cares, that no one can help me and that there is no hope. NO HOPE. It is awful to live your life with no hope. There are no consequences for the abusers, they get away with it and then that drives them on to do it again and again. They need to be brought to justice and victims need REAL HELP. It is not enough for victims to hear phrases like 'that must be horrible for you' and I am so sorry that you've experienced that. Victims need real tangible help.

## 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)?

For me, the police have been of no help and actually have at times made me feel that I was just a stupid woman moaning about her [REDACTED]. When I have been in family court, the Sheriff has had no time to fully understand my case and was not interested in any of the background. I have been documenting incidents for more than 10 years and no one has ever even looked at them.