

# 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.**

Personal experience of the effect that abuse has had on [REDACTED].

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).

Fiona McCormack

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.**

Witnessing the effect of abuse and the need for urgent action.

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.

Legislation is definitely required and all relevant and associated organisations be fully aware of the content and educated to fully implement 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) anyone convicted of domestic abuse, to include psychological abuse, should be put on the register.
- b) they should remain on the register until completion of rehabilitation and be conviction free - judge led dependant on the severity of the conviction.
- c) all notification requirements as specified in the bill i.e all 5 bullet points.
- d) Police Scotland, Scottish Prison Service, Health Boards and local authorities, anyone entering into a relationship with someone on the register should be informed and there should be a process in place whereby anyone with concerns, in a relationship, can also have access to this information.
- e) anyone with concerns should have access to this information.

## 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.**

Hopefully this would reduce reoffending. They should be judge imposed- measures and duration. Everyone convicted should be required to complete rehabilitation measures without exemption, tailored to the specifics of the abuse. Depending on the severity of the offence, this could be an alternative to a custodial sentence - in consultation with authorities involved. These measures should be delivered during the custodial sentence to ensure attendance and where possible, paid for by the offender.

## 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.**

Annual reporting would provide regular enough update initially and see how effective this is. It would set out action taken by Government to deliver domestic abuse services to vulnerable and under represented groups. This should also include individuals who are no longer living together i.e divorced couples and to include psychological abuse of ex partners and their children.

## 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.**

Mandatory teaching in schools should be included in the curriculum. It could be delivered in a cross curricular way. It should be delivered starting in Primary School, through play, art, stories etc. This can become more in depth as children move up the school and into Secondary education ( in both State and Private Schools ). It should be delivered by external experts or teachers with specific training.

## 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.**

The increase in cost would be mostly in the setting up and thereafter ongoing admin. etc. This cost would be less than if no action were taken. Increasing understanding of Domestic Abuse will reduce the incidence of domestic abuse and reoffending. This would offset the initial cost and the cost to Police, the courts, Social Services Prison Service and Local Authorities.

## 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.

It would have a positive impact on all the above.

## 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 have personally witnessed the effects of sustained psychological abuse on a divorced ex wife and 2 children. This Bill must take into account couples no longer living together and that all abuse is not obviously 'visible'. Someone has to listen to individuals in these circumstances.