

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] was abusive. I interacted with both Women's Aid and the police at different points.

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 Bannatyne

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.

More needs to be done, for sure.

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 in addition to legislation there are other measures that could be employed. Funds to help women leave abusive situations. More money to Women's Aid and other charities. But also this all focuses on how to help women after the fact. What can be done to stop men from developing the attitude or mindset where they feel justified to abuse women? We need to get to the root of the problem which is: why do men abuse and how do we raise boys better?

Domestic Abuse Register

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

Partially 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.

My concern is that abusive men will use the threat of going on the register to the women they abuse. It's well known tactic of abusive men to claim they are the ones being abused. More police training is needed to deal with domestic situations and recognise that a distressed woman who has been goaded to the edge of her tether is different from an abuser.

Rehabilitation Measures

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

Partially 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 measures are needed but in practice these often just teach abusive men to be better at keeping their abuse under the radar. Perpetrator courses have a very low success rate, it's rare to get genuine rehabilitation. More needs to be done to tackle the problem in boys and teenagers before it takes hold as an entitlement in adulthood.

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.

It's important to gather data. However, for it to be useful, something needs to be done off the back of the data highlighting a need or a gap or anything like that.

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.

It should be a regular part of the conversation with children in high school. Teaching girls about the different and often very subtle types of abuse, their legal rights eg over coercion, financial abuse as well as physical and verbal abuse. Teaching young boys how to behave respectfully towards women, teaching them to stand up for women if they see their friends engaging in disrespectful or abusive behaviours. Men need to be part of the resolution of this problem, so teaching boys before they become men is essential.

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.

Surely reducing instances of domestic abuse, while it may have an initial cost implication to set up, will reduce financial impacts that already occur as a result of domestic abuse. We need more legal protection for women, not less, in today's environment.

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.

The biggest impact would be on women, and surely a positive impact. Also, disabled women are often adversely affected by domestic abuse as they may have fewer means of accessing escape due to lower income, not working or being physically unable to leave the home.

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?

Better resources for helping women out of domestic abuse means breaking the cycle of abuse and building towards a stronger and healthier society where these women and the children they raise can thrive and prosper. Similarly, fewer abusive men makes the world safer for everyone (men included).

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