

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

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

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Domestic abuse ruins the lives of many individuals and families. Incidents of domestic abuse continue to rise and i support any measures that seek to tackle this abhorrent crime.

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 measures are inconsistent across Scotland.

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.

There should be an obligation in Ministers to monitor and manage those with a domestic abuse conviction.

There should be legal obligations on public bodies to manage and minimise the risk of abusers reoffending.

I also like the idea that the right to request disclosure is enshrined in law and linked to the register which will determine for how long a person is considered a risk and therefore more clearly set out the obligation on the police to disclose information to the public.

I think for too long now abusers have been able to get away with manipulating new partner's and by placing a notification requirement on them , especially as mentioned in the consultation on their bank account etc it could reduce the opportunities for them to financially abuse or control future partner's

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.

There should definitely be a full roll out of the Caledonian programme.

I like the idea that all abusers should be required to undergo rehabilitation measures, especially given how high reoffending rates are.

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

The offender should have to pay for these measures themselves. If they don't want to pay for it then they shouldn't commit the crime.

It's extremely important that the methods of rehabilitation are effective and not a tick the box exercise.

In addition to this, I think that even perpetrators involved in a recorded incident of domestic violence, but not charged should be recommended to some form of rehabilitation.

Although as is outlined in the consultation document I think that the register would be a good way for perpetrators to have methods of control taken away from them. I think given several studies this is an important measure of rehabilitation.

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.

Data collection is a key issue across many different areas, especially criminal justice.

Without understand the who, what, why, and where of domestic abuse, services cannot be directed at the people who need them most. In addition to this, different people require different services. In cases of domestic abuse trust is a key element for victims feeling safe enough to report it and to leave the perpetrator.

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 think that schools teach a lot in PSE.

Some good programmes back in the day were CEOP was a really informative programme that taught children about grooming etc and was really informative on what to look out for.

Judging by recent research it would appear that not enough children and young people are aware of what emotional abuse looks like and the warning signs of what may progress to be an abusive relationship.

A lot of our understanding is formed at a young age, and by teaching young people what an unhealthy relationship looks like and what support is available to them, I believe this is a good way to keep young people safer and also embark on a wider cultural shift.

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

I think this should be tailored at pupils in P7 upwards. Perhaps starting with what an abusive relationship looks like and how to report if you think you or someone you know may be in danger.

I am aware of some great programmes like Equally Safe but this education and it's delivery is inconsistent across Scotland and should be legislated for to deliver a clear and consistent message.

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.

There will likely be costs on public bodies but a necessary one, I think.

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 think it will help safeguard vulnerable individuals from potentially abusive relationships.

I don't believe the Bill will negatively impact any particular group of people.

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 think this Bill should be given serious consideration. Despite a lot of the hard work currently undertaken by the third sector to eradicate domestic abuse and support victims. There must be a more victim-centred approach taken by the Government, one that prioritises the victims feelings, not the perpetrators.