

# Proposed Disability Commissioner (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to establish a Disability Commissioner for Scotland

The consultation runs from 12 May 2022 to 3 August 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.

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".)

*No Response*

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).**

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):**

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).

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.

**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 should enable this really important area to receive the appropriate attention and as such provide the maximum benefit for those who are disabled.

Q2. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether there is a need for a specific, dedicated commissioner focussing solely on people with a disability?

Fully supportive

**Please give the reasons for your response**

Our organisation, the Church of Scotland, has recently committed to getting better in the whole area of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and to know that there is a commissioner dedicated to 'advocacy, promoting and working' in the whole area of disability would, I hope, provide us with more support, expertise and leverage to bring positive change across the country.

Q3. 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 that it is often the case, that if you don't have someone dedicated to a particular area then it is all too easy for other priorities to crowd in. A commissioner would hopefully, most significantly, be a person with passion and insights that would enable them to advocate for the disabled in whatever space/forum etc it was needed.

## Scope of the Disability Commissioner Role

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of the Disability Commissioner role covering all disabilities; physical, mental, hidden and fluctuating conditions?

Fully supportive

**Please give reasons for your response, including how the commissioner could co-ordinate with the work of existing bodies/organisations who support people with these conditions.**

Some disabilities seem to get more attention etc, but we need to make sure that all those who are disabled will be 'held' by this commissioner. That said, it's a massive and complex remit, so I hope that one person isn't too spread in their impact.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of the Disability Commissioner having a role in reviewing laws and policies that might impact on disabled people?

Fully supportive

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

Laws and policies are levers and what most people adhere to - get these right for all people, the disabled

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of the Disability Commissioner having a role in reviewing laws and policies that might impact on disabled people?

included and this is an important foundation. That said, there're are other aspects that need to be focused on too, not just law and policies!

Q6. Which of the following best expresses your view of the Disability Commissioner promoting best practice and learning from service providers, key stakeholders and third sector?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including how you envisage this work being undertaken?**

This links to my previous response - beyond laws and policies, there is the 'practice' that organisations etc engage in, which is the outworking of their commitment to do right by the disabled, that can be of benefit to other organisations etc. This might include, training, resources, general lessons learnt, and other such provision, that enables other organisations to respond and 'do' something. But, might also be about capturing the tougher things to catch - ethos, approach, experiences of the disabled who have benefitted from organisations etc who are attempting to do the right thing.

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view of encouraging involvement of disabled people and DPOs (Disabled People's Organisations) in the work of the Disability Commissioner?

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response. Please discuss how you think this would work in practise – would this be through focus groups, internships, paid roles etc**

To quote a saying 'Anything that's for us, that has been developed without us, is not for us' (or something like that!).

Those who are disabled must be an intrinsic part of informing, shaping etc the work of the commissioner.

Q8. Who should the Disability Commissioner be allowed to investigate?

Both Scottish Public Bodies and service providers

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

This needs to be as all-encompassing as possible.

## Financial Implications

Q9. 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**

Q9. 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?

**cost-effectively.**

If nothing else, organisations will have to give time resource to considering how they are doing for the disabled (which will be a financial cost of staff time). Then if they need to adjust there approaches, facilities etc there are likely to be financial implications, in terms of giving time to enabling organisational change (in thinking, ethos etc) and possibly physical requirements. However, organisations should have already made changes in this area due to legal requirements etc that are already in place, so the cost would hopefully not be 'significant' just 'some increase'.

## Equalities

Q10. 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

Q11. 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 more we enable 'all people' to live as fully as they can then the better for opportunity we have of having a positive impact in the areas listed above.

## General

Q12. 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*