

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.

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".)

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).

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.)

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Nothing will change. The system and professionals within and outwith are extremely ablist, don't have enough time, interrupt and judge you before you have a chance to explain. That's if they bother to ask. I'm

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

fed up hearing about the amount of people who are gaslighted into avoiding medical services because of humiliating experiences. We shouldn't have to identify our own disabilities years after mentioning it to medical so called practitioners.

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

I would love to see this but I doubt the amount of clout they would have. In my view, you need to start from the top down and re educate all within the NHS. Too many people become ill and die because of the medical care. They're basically too ignorant because disabled people are ignored and dismissed while if you're not disabled you're likely to be ignored and dismissed. My mother was a classic example of medical tomfoolery. She was humiliated by the GP.

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.

Absolutely. We need more clout. So not just legislation but constant and spontaneous visits without warning. All disabled people should be fully involved and included while respected. Life experience should not be seen as lesser compared to academia. We also shouldn't have to rely on complaint and feedback procedures. It shouldn't be wrong in the first place.

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.

The commissioner should be disabled themselves and have people on board who are disabled in reference to those disabilities in concerned. There should be full involvement with respect, legislation and compassion backing those disabled communities. I cannot see the point in having a disability commissioner talking on behalf of say Autistic people if they they either aren't Autistic or have no Autistic people on their Board through a top down approach.

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.

They should be fully involved along with disability communities who should be backed up by legislation,

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?

while being included, involved and respected at every single level. They should be a force to be reckoned with. But they should be disabled themselves or they should be fully involved and inclusive of disabled communities and that should be backed up by law, policy and decision making. We should be included and respected and wanted at every single turn.

Disabled people should be able and backed up and their voices are key. For instance, no compliance therapies put upon disabled people and you should be accepting our word for it - without fail. In fact, if the NHS is going to be privatised, anyone abusing others through gatekeeping and abusive practices like ABA should be automatically fined and not allowed to practice.

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?

Unsure

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

I don't see how you can support and stand up for disabled people. We're continually abused, gaslighted, mocked and made fun of. Police are useless and will victim blame. Professionals will see disabled people as in need of help rather than we're asking for support. We're automatically thought we can't parent our children because of being disabled. We're overly scrutinised, judged and so on.

It's even worse when on the waiting list for diagnosis (that's if we're even believed and not fobbed off to a website to be later gaslighted because we've read information 'on the internet!') because we're neither one nor the other yet our needs aren't being addressed because 'we don't have any'.

How many families are reported to the Children's Reporter because professionals don't recognise traits? There aren't enough solicitors to be able to take our cases while it's hugely expensive to get any sort of justice. Professionals don't realise they're dealing with stressed people because they've caused that stress while they don't realise that they have a whole system at their own disposal while we have to protect, justify and defend ourselves while being seen as lesser because we're not 'academics'. Parents of disabled children are frightened because of the disbelief and rife parent blaming and we're the ones who are frightened to admit we've had late nights because we're up researching while we have to be careful as not to allow professionals to consider 'we're not coping'. We have to. And we do.

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?

Partially 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

I welcome the opportunity but I really don't see how you can make a difference. The Scottish Commissioner is useless and everything is based on parameters. If your specific case doesn't quite fit, you find yourself open to more judgement. Basically it comes down to wording while if you're disabled - wording documents takes strength. Even now I'm concerned about what I write.

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

Both Scottish Public Bodies and service providers

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

Every professional and anyone who works with disabled children and adults even without diagnosis. That's outwith Scottish Public Bodies and service providers.
It also shouldn't be a situation where the disabled person has to prove that the person has abused their position in relation to any previous statement. In other words, a professional shouldn't be judged upon the company statement. We shouldn't have to make complaints.

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?

a significant 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.

It doesn't matter what the cost is if it can be shared. If everyone put in a £1 that could be enough. Basically, listen, include and involve and respect disabled people and ensure we have the same impact if not more through our equity. We need that backup and work to ensure we have that back up.

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.

Protecting others and including others can only be a good thing. By leaving us out - you're making the situation worse for yourselves. By being inclusive of disability communitiies and disabled people outwith those communities because of having to wait at least 4 years because of diagnosis - you're missing people. People are dying because of being missed, misdiagnosed, ignored, dismissed and invalidated.

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?

Bring in more socialism, more respect and compassion for all even those perceived to be 'exploiting the systems'. We need to be included for the good of all of us. Look at Equity. Look at why people are suffering. Look at ways to include through green initiatives that are open to all. And be prepared to listen to new ones. Prevent the stops and 'we've no money to do that'. Look outside the box and start supporting us.

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)?

Start caring start listening start including start involving. Start working on those biases. Stop abusing us.