

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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).

The Deaf health charity SignHealth, set up in 1986, works to improve the health and wellbeing of Deaf people who use British Sign Language. We are led by deaf people and the deaf community. SignHealth provides psychological therapies, advocacy, social care, a crisis text line service and support to survivors of domestic abuse.

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).

SignHealth

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 is essential that disabled people have a Commissioner who not only understands the barriers they face, but also creates a platform where their voices, opinions and issues are taken seriously and investigated. There is a need for extensive research to be undertaken relating to disabled people's rights, which will then lead to positive change.

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

There is a need for a Commissioner dedicated solely on people with a disability because disabled people are still fighting for their rights. Responses to issues are usually reactive instead of pro-active. Having a commissioner in place would mean issues would be raised and discussed more frequently, with demands for solutions.

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.

No Response

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 Disability Commissioner role should cover all disabilities with strong partnerships and engagement with disabled people's organisations.

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

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

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

It is essential that DPOs are involved because they are the organisations that are aware of the issues that their members face. They are able to recruit people to be involved in focus groups to gather evidence needed to present to Parliament.

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

Both Scottish Public Bodies and service providers

Please explain the reasons for your response

All bodies and service providers should be held accountable.

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 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.

There will be reduction in costs, however, it will be in the long term. To improve lives of disabled people, provisions will have to be put into place which will lead to increase of costs, but the long term effects of it will lead to reduction of costs due to full participation of disabled people in the community, improved mental health, increase in employment which will lead to improved economy due to the increase of money being exchanged.

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.

This would have a positive impact on disabled people because it would mean that their rights would be strengthened and could be used as a point of reference when they are being discriminated against based on their disability.

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?

No Response

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