

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).

Autism support

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).

ASK Autism North East

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

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's no accountability at the moment

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.

Legislation required. Recommendations are too often ignored.

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.

All should have the same rights and therefore a commissioner. Listen to parents, support groups, disability or education lawyers.

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.

The laws are not being upheld, many school staff for example do not understand the law and exclude disabled children in their care.

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?

Partially 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?

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

Service providers, especially local authorities have their own best interest at heart and not necessarily those of the disabled people. Parents must be consulted.

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

Must be people from several organisations. One support group that doesn't support the idea of commissioner should not have the only say.

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

Both Scottish Public Bodies and service providers

Please explain the reasons for your response

There should be opportunity to investigate any service and they must have accountability. At the moment these services often exclude illegally and there is no way to challenge it.

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 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.

I believe costs would be reduced because of there was accountability at an earlier stage then the correct support will be provided. Too many disabled children (and adults) are wrongly excluded which can lead to self harm, unemployment, drug or alcohol use, criminal conduct. This is because these people are misunderstood and left behind. A commissioner could ensure the proper support is in place giving the disabled person the best chance in life.

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.

A new law would certainly impact councils and service providers negatively. They will be forced to do the right thing.

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?

It would indeed produce a stronger healthier society for the disabled people who have not been afforded this chance previously.

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)?

I would question the motives of anyone who doesn't want a commissioner or new bill. If everyone is doing the best for disabled people then there is nothing to fear. Councils may object as they would then have some level of accountability which is non existent at present.