

Proposed Whole Life Custody (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to give Scottish courts the power to sentence the worst criminals to custody for the rest of their lives. The consultation runs from 29 May 2019 to 30 August 2019. 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 attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used

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 choose one of the following:

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 name or the name of your organisation. (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

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of giving Scottish courts the power to sentence the worst criminals to custody for the rest of their lives?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

you aim is to protect society first and foremost. Then represent the victim.

Q2. How would introducing Whole Life Custody Sentences affect your level of confidence in the Scottish justice system?

Significantly more confident in the justice system

Please explain the reasons for your response

you recognise the danger that people can cause and the feeling of the victim. You take a life this effects the whole society as well as the family members.

Q3. Which types of murder should have a Whole Life Custody Sentence as the starting point for sentencing? (Choose all that apply)

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response

any murder is murder...one person is more than enough to get life. Afterall, the victim lost their life. Cant believe you have categorised this as more than one, or into categories . life is precious irrespective if political, etc More value needs to be put on life of the victim. they are not commodities.

Q4. Which sexual offences should have a Whole Life Custody Sentence as the starting point for sentencing? (Choose all that apply)

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for this response.

rape ..of anyone. This effects peoples life .. There are victims.

Q5. Are there any other types of offence (other than murder or certain sexual offences) which should attract a Whole Life Custody Sentence as a 'starting point' for sentencing?

Unsure

Please explain the reason for your response.

serious assault , gang revenge. attacking or abusing the elderly , disadvantaged child or adult. people in professional jobs eg nursing abusing their powers or attacking others.

Q6. Which of the following best expresses your view on whether whole life custody should be a sentencing option for younger offenders?

Whole life custody should be an option for any adult offender (aged 16 or over) or for children over the age of criminal responsibility (at the time the offence was committed)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

if you want to treat them as adult eg give them votes at 16 yrs, get married, then they are old enough to take the consequences for their actions. Once they know right and wrong.

Financial Implications

Q7. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have? Please explain the reasons for your response.

you won't need to monitor them in the community, communities will feel safer. less policing required . It is still a small minority and may act as a deterrent.

Equalities

Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, maternity and pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Q8. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, maternity and pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

it should be applied to everyone irrespective of age, etc

Sustainability

Q9. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

only if there is a commitment and respect for society and victims

General

Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

there is too much blame put on austerity., lots of poor people do not commit crimes, there is a lack of morals and self control now . teaching youngsters that life is hard and how to deal with problems from an early age, actions have serious consequences. No more excuses for violence.