

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 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.

If they are the worst killers and have premeditated to murder/rape etc multiple times why then should they have the possibility of being released back into society?

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

People are being sentenced and then being released back into society with a reduced time spent in prison for good behaviour!!!! I'm sorry they should be on life for bad behaviour...if anything their sentence should be increased for bad behaviour!!!

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

The murder of two or more persons, where each murder involves any of (1) a substantial degree of premeditation or planning, (2) the abduction of the victim, or (3) sexual or sadistic conduct

The murder of a child if involving the abduction of the child or sexual or sadistic motivation

The murder of a police or prison officer in the course of their duty

A murder by an offender previously convicted of murder

Please explain the reasons for your response

As I mentioned earlier..a premeditated murder suggests someone of sound mind etc...A murder by an offender who previously murdered suggests no remorse for the previous murder and lack of respect for the

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

system!!! As for children being abducted, sexual abuse and murder...these are the vulnerable generation who need most protected.....their childhood taken before it's even begun!

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

Rape of two or more persons

Rape of a young child

Sexual assault on a young child by penetration

Causing a young child to participate in a sexual activity

Please explain the reasons for this response.

Anyone who does this is disgusting...especially when grooming is involved...premeditated and therefore know that what they are doing is wrong but will still go ahead with it. Maybe if there was a change in the law they may be discouraged to do it!

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?

No- only murder and certain sexual offences should attract a Whole Life Custody Sentence

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 limited to offenders aged 21 or over (at the time the offence was committed)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

By the time someone is 21 they should have the mental ability to see what is right and wrong...if they have previously committed a serious crime and served time in prison they may have learned from this. If however they commit again after this age then hell mend them!!! Would b unfair if an 18yr old sentenced to a murder alongside a 50yr old??

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.

It would hopefully be more of a deterrent to offend therefore making savings with a reduction in inmates. We also would cut down on legal aid...court time..policetime..etc.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Personally I dont care what impact this has on equality when it comes to prisoners...as far as I'm concerned I'd take rights away while they are locked up! That is what the punishment is all about after all!

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I am no expert...just a member of the public and therefore do not know numbers, costs etc but what I do know is that if someone has premeditated a serious crime they need to be held accountable for such crime. Our justice system is a joke I feel...money crimes seems to be more harshly punished than murder...the whole system needs reviewed!!

General

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

As I said...the whole system needs review6but o do feel this is a step in the right direction!