

Questions

About you

(Note: Information entered in this “About You” section may be published with your response (unless it is “not for publication”), except where indicated in **bold**.)

1. Are you responding as:

- an individual – in which case go to Q2A
- on behalf of an organisation? – in which case go to Q2B

2A. 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”.)

- Politician (MSP/MP/Peer/MEP/Councillor)
- Professional with experience in a relevant subject
- Academic with expertise in a relevant subject
- Member of the public

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

2B. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:

- Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government or agency, local authority, NDPB)
- Commercial organisation (company, business)
- Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)
- Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)
- Other (e.g., clubs, local groups, groups of individuals, etc.)

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 officeholders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

3. Please choose one of the following:

- I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation
- I would like this response to be published anonymously
- I would like this response to be considered, but not published (“not for publication”)

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason. **(Note: your reason will not be published.)**

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4. 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 **(Note: The name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or “not for publication”.)**

Please provide 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. **(Note: We will not publish these contact details.)**

Data protection declaration

- I confirm that I have read and understood the [Privacy Notice](#) to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used.

If you are under 12 and making a submission, we will need to contact you to ask your parent or guardian to confirm to us that they are happy for you to send us your views.

- Please ONLY place an x in the brackets if you are UNDER 12 years of age.

YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL

1. What is your view of introducing a new criminal offence of paying for sexual services? (This is the only mandatory question)

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Don't want to express a view

Please explain the reasons for your response.

As outlined in the consultation, we do not endorse any other abuser for their abuse! Even where there is no 'overt' abuse by a punter or pimp, turning sex into a commercial activity, the inside of your body into a commodity is in and of itself inherently harmful. It is deeply psychologically damaging and incurs high levels of physical trauma. Women's bodies are not designed to 'service' one man after another night after night. Even if it is just one punter (eg 'rooms for sex' or 'sugaring'), our bodies are not designed for, essentially unwanted sex. This gives rise to the multiple physical impacts mentioned in the consultation.

We would like to add that the harm is absolutely inherent to the industry regardless of whether it was 'chosen' or any overt abuse was ever experienced. We do occasionally come across women who felt they freely chose the industry, were never pimped and never had an abusive client. They still suffer the same emotionally (and physical) trauma as others in the industry. Sexual desire cannot be bought. And there's a word for sex without desire - RAPE.

We would suggest the idea of choice is a false argument. It is irrelevant. Just because someone 'chose' it doesn't then mean you won't be harmed or the fact that it was 'chosen' doesn't magically make everything all ok. Actually, if anything it makes it even more harmful as you are likely to be trapped in denial even longer and feel even more shame, self blame and isolation. This is all standard already in women from the sex trade.

We would also suggest that poverty is NOT the prime motivator for entry into prostitution. The vast majority in poverty will never enter the sex trade. For those that do, poverty is almost invariably coupled with vulnerabilities, such as prior/ongoing abuse (alongside rampant social grooming and potentially grooming by 'boyfriends'/pimps etc).

2. **What is your view of repealing section 46 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: the offence of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place?**

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

3. **What is your view of repealing previous convictions under section 46 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: the offence of soliciting for the purposes of prostitution in a public place?**

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

This is desperately important. Past convictions (even notes on medical records) mean women's past always haunts them. It blocks them from certain jobs such as teaching and policing (unlike their buyers, who are the ones who surely should be blocked!). This is particularly absurd, when most women in prostitution need alternative income and face poverty. It means they can always fear disclosure. And they always have this, legally and emotionally hanging over their heads. For what other victim would we so label and discriminate against?

4. **What is your view of giving people in prostitution the legal right to support?**

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Unless they have this right they will not be given meaningful support - as is often the current situation. Even then it can often be inadequate with the appropriate support services not adequately funded.

90% want to escape, it absolutely must be provided, particularly given the extreme difficulties of leaving (with re-entry on average 8 times standard). With adequate funding however, exiting can be readily achieved. This also means costs can be minimalised – and quickly balance out the costs of the current situation if exiting is even ultimately achieved, including additional costs such as the extortionate costs of children being taken into care (where they are then also at risk), multiple rehab attempts etc etc.

Great care must be taken to plan this, coordinate exiting support with clamping down on sex buying and ensuring the relevant services are well prepared and resourced to assist with exiting and post exiting support.

5. What is your view of including provisions for exiting services in the bill?

- Fully supportive
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

nb this must include long term support!

6. How should the proposed offence be enforced. Are there any particular techniques which you think should be used or obstacles which might need to be overcome?

Does this relate to sex buying? Evidence suggests that very cheap, easily enforced measures such as small fines or 'naming and shaming' deter the vast majority of buyers. France's 're-education' scheme also seems to work well. Preventing sex buying in the first place, however, is key – this means an end to constant media soft porn promotion and robust school education (e.g. including it in sex and relationships education). And this is necessary from the youngest possible age as children are bombarded with sex industry messaging or even pornography itself from the youngest imaginable age. It also means working hard to end children accessing porn and an end to all

violent/abusive porn.

7. **Do you believe that there are any new policing powers that would be necessary or beneficial for enforcing this offence?**

All online prostitution sites urgently need to be addressed– as this is where most sex buying now occurs.

8. **Please indicate which of the following forms of support and/or services you think should be provided for people in prostitution and exiting prostitution (place an x into the brackets of as many options as you agree with):**

- Exiting support workers
- Drop in services
- Outreach visits to brothels, saunas and other similar premises
- Specialist medical consultations
- Access to drug and alcohol services
- Access to counselling and psychological treatment services
- Specialist housing schemes for women in crisis
- Support to access education, training or work
- Financial advice, debt support etc
- Other (please give details)

Please explain the reasons for your response and provide examples of best practice.

Long term support is also key, partly to prevent re-entry and partly to help women regain their lives (and recontribute to society)

9. **Please indicate which of the following ways of raising awareness of the new offence you believe to be most effective (choose as many as you agree with):**

- Internet and social media advertising
- TV advertising
- Print media advertising
- Billboards in public places and transport
- Leaflets to households
- Materials to support and exiting services for people involved in prostitution
- Materials targeted at areas where prostitution is known to occur
- Materials to health and mental health services
- Materials to further education sector
- Inclusion in secondary education (Relationship, Sexual Health,

- Parenting classes)
[X] Other (please give details)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It is vital to prevent entry (and deter sex buying). School education is needed at the youngest ages (our kids are currently being 'educated' by extreme violent porn after all). But also addressing the media's constant propaganda of the sex/porn industries – which helps encourage entry and no doubt buying. And then there is the wider objectification and sexualisation of women and girls which is the bedrock upon which the sex/porn industry operates.

10. Do you think legislation is required, or are there are other ways in which the Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively?

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Resource implications

11. Taking into account all those likely to be affected (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc), is the proposed Bill likely to lead to:

- a significant increase in costs
 some increase in costs
 no overall change in costs
[X] some reduction in costs
 a significant reduction in costs
 do not wish to express a view

Please indicate where you would expect the impact identified to fall (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc). You may also wish to suggest ways in which the aims of the Bill could be delivered more cost-effectively.

This questions needs 2 parts.

Yes, there will be an initial cost to implementing this model but ultimately HUGE cost savings. Assets seized from pimps can counter some of the costs (as in France).

The better the Nordic Model is implemented the sooner the cost benefits will occur. It must be constantly reiterated that the cost to the state of the porn/sex industry are IMMENSE and probably have never been truly properly calculated e.g. prison; probation; addiction; rehab; putting children into care; the cost of multiple attempts to exit with

inadequate support; the inability of those selling sex to contribute to the economy due to poverty/extreme disability and (far too often) even loss of life; other activities of organised crime - drugs, county lines, assaults, murder, corruption of the authorities etc.); rape/violence by sex buyers vs their partners and other women and generally enhanced levels of MVAWG in wider society due to the social acceptance of porn and prostitution.

Equalities

12: Any new law can have an impact on different individuals and groups 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?

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

Positive effect is overwhelming including on:

- Children/Adults at risk of entering or already in the industry (and disabled by it)
- Those in DV/sexually abusive relationships, often at particular risk
- Sexually abused children, often most at risk
- Those with physical/mental health/learning disabilities and other vulnerabilities making them particularly prone to the sex trade such as autism
- Children/Women who are Homeless /in care etc
- Trans people (the vast majority of anti trans violence, including 80% of trans murders, occur in prostitution). Perhaps some awareness raising is needed on this, given that trans groups generally are highly pro porn/sex trade
- Those in/facing poverty - the state will be forced to increase it safety net to prevent entry/support exiting. If it does not, it potentially faces legal challenge (by claimants on legal aid who can do this at no financial cost to themselves)
- Sex buyers (especially if re-educated as in France) or for the few with Mental Health issues that has helped drive their sex buying who must then receive adequate support
- All of society, given sex buyers themselves are more abusive towards their partners and women generally and the social acceptance of prostitution goes hand-in-hand with more misogynistic attitudes and hate crimes vs women

Nb Those with no recourse to public funding in the sex trade or vulnerable to it MUST have this barrier removed.

Sustainability

13. 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?

Sex buying can be easily reduced by up to 90% through relatively easy, small measures – this means the sex trade in theory can be practically eliminated – allowing a much healthier, more just and SAFE society for ALL women and girls. Forever.