

Proposed Witchcraft Convictions (Pardons) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to pardon all those convicted under the Witchcraft Act 1563.

The consultation runs from 23 June 2022 to 15 September 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.

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 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).

Kimberly Wallace Naranjo

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.

Hello, yes the Witch Trials and Executions is something that I have studied for several years, particularly those throughout Scotland and in Salem, Massachusetts. I became interested in this subject while in studying Herbalism and during my nursing career. The book "Woman As Healer" by Jean Achterberg

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

discusses the role of women as Healers and how this role was taken away from them by the emerging patriarchal society. As a nurse I became intensely interested in the history of how ordinary women, performing a great service to their villages as midwives and Healers were suddenly accused of being in league with Satan by misogynistic clergymen and village councilmen I was appalled. I became a Neopagan/Wiccan/Druid and began a solitary practitioner, active in the social media platforms and became friends with a well known Wiccan High Priestess in Edinburgh who is also an Interfaith Chaplain at The University of Edinburgh, Scotland. I will be traveling to Edinburgh this week and will be staying with my dear friend once again. She has been a lovely host and mentor to me for 6 years and I am thrilled to be part of this community and working together to honor and memorialize the accused witches of Scotland as well as supporting an apology and a pardon that is hopefully underway thanks to all of you and to First MP, Nichola Sturgeon.

Q2. 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.

I think that educating the community through ad campaigns and community events is a priority but ultimately, yes legislation will be necessary. The reason I believe both are in order is because this is primarily a woman's issue and women have to push harder than men to get recognition and representation. In addition, people tend to forget if there aren't consistent reminders of the importance of historical events that have shaped our civilizations.

Financial Implications

Q3. 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 increase in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Because it costs money to hold events and rallies. It costs money to raise money through ad campaigns and lobbying for legislation and to build monuments, statues and plaques. I am however confident that much of the money needed will come through donations from organizations such The Scottish Pagan Federation and many of the social media platforms and YouTube channels.

Equalities

Q4. 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, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response including the impact on people with particular protected characteristics

While there is some correlation among these important issues this particular issue is one of correcting the stereotypes connected to "Witches" who are still viewed with long held beliefs in old superstitions and

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misinformation. I would put this in The Holocaust category of completely wiping out a memory that must be remembered for the tragedy that it was.

Sustainability

Q5. 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?

Absolutely I would expect a positive impact in areas of tourism to see museums and tours dedicated to The Accused Witches of Scotland. Scotland is a diverse and open minded country that is not controlled by former Calvinist Presbyterian or Roman Catholic Church Doctrines. The churches are nearly empty on Sundays.

General

Q6. 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)?

Not at this time but I am sure I will think of some as soon as I submit this.