

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).

Louise Elizabeth Hamill

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.

I still mourn the loss of Scotland's wisest women. The witch trials appealed to humanity's base instincts and led to the loss of our nation's heirlooms. Our sense of who we are and how it is that we can connect to this place we call home. To strip community's of their matriarchs was to weaken them. This is a step in

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

healing the wounds that are still in our bones. Now that Epigenetics is moving from theory to science, Scotland would do well to take a long hard look at how the impact of our responses to atrocities still resides within the common body.

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.

The greatest lengths are deserved to recover this matter.

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?

no overall change in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer.

If anything, Scotland would economically benefit. The popular imagination of the 'Scottish Witch' is powerful the world over. Many feel an affinity. Folks and descendents of the diaspora feel connected with this issue. Creating remembrance sites could encourage further tourism - to places in Scotland not often featured on tourist trails.

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?

Positive

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

Magic is universal. Those outcasted by society will often be the ones who turn to it, on the realisation they must create their own magical world view to find peace and happiness. Magic is inclusive and many folks that fall under protected characteristics would identify as 'witches.' Particularly gender-queer folks. Being a woman isn't a protected category but it almost should be. We have a long way to go before we can say there is true gender equality in the hearts and minds of Scots. This pardon could go some way in promoting it.

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?

I have already touched upon the potential economic benefit. This pardon will promote justice in society and for future generations. It shows that for Scots, justice isn't something that can be evaded. Justice isn't just for today - the justice we seek transcends our current people and takes into account our ancestry. The justice we take is not selfishly just for us - it's for all that came before us and all that will come after.

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)?

To some this cause will seem silly. I feel this is because they can't see our people on a span of time. Yes, we are the Scots here now. Scotland is now - but it is also our past. It is the Scots that toiled and sacrificed so we could be here. To have a culture that acknowledges its' past and takes accountability for our ancestors doings is very powerful. That work can heal so much. Taking accountability heals the pain so our future ancestors don't have to bear the burden. The energetic impact of the fear that was driven into the hearts of our people lingers within us. It is Scotland's responsibility to begin the healing work now and set a framework for justice that future generations can draw upon.