Consultation
Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Yes we contributed to the consultation through the Social Work Scotland (ADSW as was) response.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. No – the FM underestimates the MHO workload and also the potential system cost implications of the Bill

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Yes

Costs
If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
4. We believe the costs have not been adequately reflected in the FM. The workload implications for MHOs are potentially very significant and we believe the MWC for Scotland figures on reports/scenarios affected by the Bill are more accurate than the numbers put forward in the FM.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
5. No, for the reasons given above.

If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
6. No, as highlighted above, the majority of the additional costs will be in relation to MHO capacity. The Bill needs to be viewed within the context of the national MHO workforce as a whole which is already stretched and workforce analysis shows that the high numbers of MHOs expected to retire in the short term is not being adequately compensated for by new numbers coming forward for training. The Bill therefore creates cost pressures both on individual Local Authorities and on the national training arrangements.

Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?
7. The FM has a starting point assumption that we do not believe is realistic therefore all subsequent estimates are also felt to be under.

Wider Issues
Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
8. In addition to the MHO workforce implications there are also potential implications re the requirement to have advanced statement available 24/7. There may be IT system and remote / mobile working implications associated with delivery of this elements that has not been accounted for the in the FM. There is no recognition within the FM of technical system requirements to support implementation and, for our area at least, the additional requirements would not be able to be met utilising existing systems.

Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?

9. It is not possible to quantify this at this stage.