1. Do you agree with the proposal in the Bill to repeal the 2012 Act? What are your reasons for coming to this view?

No I feel as a season ticket holding Scottish football fan that the continued sectarian and abusive behaviour of some Scottish clubs of has to be shown to be unacceptable as the previous laws weren't working the new legislation should be used more not discarded.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

Yes, it had good intentions and any real football fan has nothing to fear from them only ones who want to continue on.

3. Do you consider that other existing provisions of criminal law are sufficient to prosecute offensive behaviour related to football which leads to public disorder? If so, could you specify the criminal law provisions? Or does repeal of section 1 risk creating a gap in the criminal law?

There are laws that did cover elements before but the specific event of football has to be further covered as there is currently too big a link between Scottish football & sectarian behaviour in our society. This will continue to be ignored if the government backs down and will continue to spill out of the grounds and into workplaces, school etc.

4. Do you have a view on the focus of section 1 of the 2012 Act, which criminalises behaviour surrounding watching, attending or travelling to or from football matches, which may not be criminalised in other settings?

Yes as a season ticket holder and a serving police officer I see it as a good move forward to tackling the links from football to sectarian behaviours no matter what team.

5. Do you consider that other existing provisions of criminal law are sufficient to prosecute threats made with the intent of causing a person or persons fear or alarm or inciting religious hatred? If so, could you specify the criminal law provisions? Or does repeal of section 6 risk creating a gap in the criminal law?

No I do not consider them sufficient.
6. Do you have a view on the proposed transitional arrangements in the Bill: that there should be no further convictions for section 1 and 6 offences from the date on which the repeal of those offences takes effect; and that the police will cease issuing fixed penalty notices at least from the point at which the Bill is passed?

It’s a backwards step that the Scottish government would be giving into popular opinion rather than keeping legislation that can be used to promote the unacceptable nature of sectarian crimes.

7. To what extent do you consider that the 2012 Act has assisted in tackling sectarianism?

It's probably not been used enough but as a fan and a police officer the knowledge that it's available and has been used proves that it's needed to stamp out the horrible behaviours of some fans.

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