Justice Committee

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill

Written submission from Anonymous 15

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

I think it is of huge importance that this Act is repealed. It's flawed in so many ways and is discriminatory too football's fans across the entire country.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

No I do not

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?

I think there was sufficient law in place without this act.

I don't think repeal would leave any gap whatsoever in criminal law.

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?

I think it is lunacy too consider an offence inside a football stadium criminal when it may not be considered the same 20 paces outside the gates of a stadium.

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?

Section 6 of the legislation has been very scarcely used so will not be missed. Meaning no gap in the law.

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?

The act must be repealed with immediate effect. And those who are due in court for charges brought by the act must have those charges dropped instantly. Also
anybody with any conviction brought previously by this flawed act must have those wiped from record.

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

Zero.

Education is the one and only way to tackle sectarianism. Which has blighted our country for hundreds of years and continues to this day.

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