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

Yes, because the simple fact that a fan attending a football match does not know if he/she will return to their home or be lifted and took the station for no reason! For singing a song etc.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

No.

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?

Yes, common law Breach of the Peace, Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003! I feel there are already efficient laws in place to deal with issues at a football match, the offensive behaviour at football act is and has not worked in the recent past and as from previous incidents only creates tension and trouble between football fans and the police.

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?

As I’ve said above, I feel football fans and family and friends of people who go to football to watch their team and support their team shouldn’t have to worry about if they won’t make it back from the game because police and law enforcement has basically told them not to sing, no sudden movements etc. The list goes on, simple fact is football is a sport where fans go to enjoy and support their team, they shouldn’t be singled out and targeted by law for supporting their 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?

I feel that sections 6 has hardly been used in the period which it was enacted and that police and prosecutors use other legislations such as the communications act of 2003.
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?

I feel that the Act should be dropped with immediate effect, there should be no act to criminalise football fan or any other sporting fans! I also personally agree that previous convictions and currents cases should be dropped, the act should have never enacted in the first place therefore no one should need to suffer the consequences for something that the law deemed wrong but is no longer a law.

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

I feel the Act has encouraged sectarianism as the tension created by the act between rivalling fans, police, stewards and the law has been extreme due to the laws the Act holds. I fee without the Act there will be a very significant decrease in sectarianism and a massive decrease in trouble with police and football fans.

9 August 2017