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. I do not believe that football fans should be subject to legislation that would not affect any other civilian in day to day life.

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. There are plenty of already existing legislation. For example Breach of the Peace, Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010.

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?

People watching, attending or travelling to or from football matches should not be subject to legislation that wouldn’t affect any other member of the public at any given time.

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 six has rarely been used since the act was introduced and there is already legislation in place that deals with this.

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?
With immediate effect. I believe that all convictions under the act in question should be quashed.

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

Absolutely none whatsoever

18 August 2017