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. The act is meant to target something as vague and unclear and 'offensiveness', something which you cannot define clearly. What I may consider as offensive may not be what the person next to me considers offensive, so how can this be used as a reliable and effect law to punish someone. The law is also only there to target football fans, something that would never be done in any other walk of life, so why should football fans be any different? Also from my understanding there were/are already laws in place to deal with any mis-behaviour at football matches and the rushed and forced through 2012 Act has only had a negative effect on those attending football matches.

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. The Common Breach of the Peace, Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010. These laws are more than sufficient to cover any issues at a football match.

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 believe it is really absurd that there can be a law in place which criminalises only one walk of society. Football fans in this country are already treated unfairly and somehow seen different to everyone else so having a law in place that only targets them only further drives a wedge between the two.

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?
Since the law was passed in 2012 Section 6 has hardly been used in this time period and the police and prosecutors regularly use other legislations such as the Communications Act, 203.

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 also believe everyone charged under the act should have their conviction voided from their record, and any up and coming cases should be dropped.

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

None at all.

If anything it has made things worse, tensions between authorities and regular football fans has increased as the trust between the two has reduced dramatically. It has made going to football matches harder, it has made fans feel much more uncomfortable and the authorities have made fans feel intimidated at every game. And those unfortunate to have been effected by the Act have seen their lives almost turned upside down and on occasions almost ruined.

18 August 2017