Justice Committee

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

Written submission from Anonymous 39

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 due to the fact that my Mum is worried sick every time I go to the football that something could happen to me under this joke of legalisation. With my mum being worried it increases my anxiety levels and puts stress on a situation where I am meant to enjoy the football and be entertained not being paranoid that my life could be ruined in an instance which would not be considered illegal outside of a football stadium.

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 I do feel that there is sufficient laws legislation to prosecute people under for example breach of the peace.

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 to have a law which is designed to target one area of society is an absolute farce and the sheer discrimination of it is horrendous.

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 this act has barely being used since it came into place, this is because there already is legislation for this type of crime such as the Communications Act 2013.

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?

Personally I think that as soon as the vote comes in and if it is in favour of the repeal the act should 100% be seen to stop existing that moment. Also with how ridiculous and rushed this act was I would expect that all previous convictions under it are revoked.

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

I personally feel the act has done nothing for tackling sectarianism the only affects this act has had is criminalising football fans and ruining people lives which is why it is of paramount importance that it is repealed.

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