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 totally agree. I feel the Act is totally unnecessary. I have been personally affected by this draconian Act. My life has in essence been completely destroyed. I was arrested and held for 3 days for reasons of which i have no idea. I was treated like an animal, i was initially denied medical assistance in custody despite having collapsed at the airport. I was refused legal assistance whilst in custody. I was laughed at and mocked and treated in a threatening manner.

I am a 52 year old woman with absolutely no previous criminal convictions, In fact I have never ever in my life been in any sort of trouble in my life.

As a direct result of what happened to me I lost my job, my dignity, my confidence and i lost a lot of friends due to the fact that as a result of what happened to me i no longer feel safe in travelling to Scotland.

My mental health has not and may never recover, I am constantly plagued by illness and suffer from severe anxiety and depression, my therapist has said that i am suffering from PTSD.

Due to my loss of employment my financial situation is constantly perilous, this was exacerbated when having to travel back and forth to Glasgow to attend court (the case was adjourned on numerous occasions), only to eventually have all charges dropped.

Whilst travelling to and from court I was followed by the Police Officers at the airport and constantly felt threatened and extremely anxious.

My relationship with my only child has deteriorated as a result of this as he feels to a certain degree embarrassed by me and what happened and fears that it may jeopardise his employment.

I was a normal law abiding citizen travelling home from a football match when I was abused and had my life completely destroyed by the very people who are meant to serve and protect.

The lies that were told by these so called government officials (i.e the police) are mind blowing.
I will never ever return to Scotland, as I do not feel safe in doing so, as those that are employed “to serve and protect” are actually capable of such despicable behaviour.

How many more people are going to form the same opinion - I was a visitor to your country, I spent money and contributed to the economy of your country. Can you really afford to drive others away like you have done to me?

2. Did you support the original legislation?

No – why should football fans be different than any other sporting fan.

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 of course. There are laws like breach of the peace - these were used prior to the Act.

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?

How can a law affect people who are simply watching a football match. Fans travel from all over sometimes staying overnight/weekends and can fall victim to this law with many not aware of the implications of it.

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?

Yes - there are other laws which could be used

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?

This law should be scrapped immediately as can be seen by the public rejection to it. It singles out football fans. I was charged under this law. I have never been in trouble in my life, a clean criminal record. This period from my arrest to the final court case has had a detrimental effect on me and my family. I travelled back and forth to Scotland over an extensive period of time having to leave my family at home worrying. The expense of these trips was ridiculous. This period caused extreme emotional and financial stress to me.
The money spent policing this act could be put to budgets which are more in need of the money – education or health

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

I would not know if there has been any change to tackling sectarianism in Scotland as this law seems to have no clear lines as to why people are being arrested/charged.

17 August 2017