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 agree as there is already sufficient laws out there to deal with crime. My experiences of going to games at Celtic Park have been hampered by over-zealous police. This law specifically targets football fans, so it seems there is one rule for football fans compared to fans of any other sport.

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 firmly believe that other laws are more than sufficient to deal with offensive behaviour in regards to football. There is the breach of the peace, the criminal justice act that could be used to prosecute. The offensive behaviour act was solely introduced to target football fans and cause disruption in their personal lives.

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 don't agree with the focus of this legislation as football fans should not be singled out and targeted. This act was solely brought in to target and criminalise football fans.

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 other existing provisions of criminal law are sufficient to prosecute such as the 2003 Communications Act which prosecutors and police regularly use. Since it was enacted, section 6 has very rarely been used to prosecute and individuals.

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 this Act should cease with immediate effect to prevent it being used against football fans. I also feel that any current cases with fans being charged under this act should be dropped and any previous convictions quashed. As I've previously mentioned this law applies only to football fans and should have never been brought in to begin with!

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

I firmly believe it has no effect whatsoever in dealing with sectarianism. There is already existing legislation to combat this and sectarianism is not just within a football environment it happens within society. If there is already legislation to deal with this there is no need to create a law to target football fans.

17 August 2017