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, with this act the police feel they can harass and intimidate football fans for doing something that isn't a crime elsewhere.

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, breach of the peace is a widely scoped law that cover issues and football games fall in with that, this legalisation covers any offences that may be carried out in a football stadium no need for a specific act to be there.

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 that the section of the act is shocking, football fans shouldn't be the subject of specific legislation for doing things that other sports fans do. There is no difference between football fans travelling and watching the football to rugby fans doing the same thing.

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, since the act was put in place both the police and prosecutors have regularly used other pieces of legalisation such as the communications act 2003. This section of the act has barely been utilised due to existing legislation that covers 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?
I believe that this act should be ceased to be used specifically against football fans immediately, any ongoing cases that haven't found a conclusion should be scrapped because this law that only targets football fans should not have been implemented at all.

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

I believe this act has done nothing to tackle sectarianism. All it has done is criminalised football fans for being football fans. There are laws that cover the crimes that are related to sectarianism therefore why this Act was passed and focussed partially on this aspect is puzzling. The issue of sectarianism has been part of our society for decades and no other laws have eradicated it therefore this Act was never going to actively tackle it and this has been proven over the years.

17 August 2017