Justice Committee

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

Written submission from Anonymous 58

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 a complete farce, abused by police across Scotland as a tool for harassment on those who attend football matches. It has, and will continue to if it isn't repealed, ruined lives, cost jobs, wrecked families apart and it simply has to go.

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. There is other laws including breach of the peace which would be sufficient enough.

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?

There should simply not be a law which focuses purely on 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?

As above, there are other legislation which can be used to prosecute

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?

The act should be repealed with immediate effect with all cases which aren't concluded terminated.
7. To what extent do you consider that the 2012 Act has assisted in tackling sectarianism?

The act, in my opinion, has done absolutely nothing to combat sectarianism in Scotland. It has only given police officers the right to target and criminalise football fans.

17 August 2017