1. Do you agree with the proposal in the Bill to repeal the 2012 Act? What are your reasons for coming to this view?

I think it is very important that the act is repealed. The act was rushed through for whatever reason that the politicians chose, probably under pressure from the police and it has been proven time and time again to affect peoples' lives in a bad way with the conviction rate so low that is has been criticised by everyone except the SNP and police.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

No, it has always been my view that the legislation is unfair and dangerous.

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 already laws in place. I do not see why someone would be charged for being involved in violence just because it is at the football when they can be charged with a breach of the peace for example. No it will not create a gap in criminal law.

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 feel that is discriminatory. I think this is the case because like I previously said, crime is crime regardless if it’s at a football match or going to and from and shouldn't be focussing on the football part when the same nature of crime will be less harshly punished if it was not at the football.

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 has very rarely been used from the stats that I have seen mostly because I think it is very hard to actually implement. I don't think it will create a gap because I don't think it will be missed if and when there is a repeal.

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?

Yes I believe that there should be no further convictions and that all ongoing charges
should be dropped and that any previous charges should be wiped and everyone
should be issued with an apology. I was charged under the act and was found not
guilty however because I have to have a disclosure for my job, this flagged up and it
created a lot of issues with my work, family and girlfriend. I was missing work and not
being paid for court dates and then it took the judge under one hour to find me not
guilty which was great but not without the stress of the year that passed from being
charged to the end result.

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

Sectarianism has been a problem in Scotland for many years and it unfortunately still
continues to this day but again there was already laws in place to deal with
sectarianism. The word sectarianism is commonly used wrongly by people including
politicians, the police and the media, this creates a false meaning of the word and
many people do not actually know what it means because of the way it has been
used by people who should know the real meaning. To tackle sectarianism properly
then it should start with education from an early age. I actually feel that things have
improved for young people with education from when I was in school and began to
understand what things meant to now for young people. Of course there will always
be people who are simply sectarian but education won’t ‘fix’ them and that is where
existing laws come in to force.

17 August 2017