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

No. We now live in a society where 'hate and violence' are broadcast under the guise of 'freedom of speech'. I do not support this trend of several decades. I do not want to see it continue. We have just had expression of it on the streets of Glasgow (Orange Order march) and it needs to be removed from our society. The violent language used by the press in association with these matches furthers the hatred.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

Yes. It was a welcome step in the correct direction and had support throughout the country and throughout the football spectating community.

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?

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 have not witnessed the hate-filled noise at and after football matches while attending any other sporting event.

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?

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?

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

Alastair Macdonald
5 July 2017