Justice Committee
Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill
Written submission from Hugh Meikle

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, I do not agree with the proposal. It is the first tiny step to rid Scotland of the horrible sectarian attitude that exists in football and in other areas of Scottish society.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

YES

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?

NO

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?

Life is about choices, if a person chooses to do the wrong thing, they should be prepared to accept the consequences.

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?

NO

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?

Leave the Bill as it is. There is no place for this behaviour in Scotland.
7. To what extent do you consider that the 2012 Act has assisted in tackling sectarianism?

Fear. Fear of prosecution is the only way to deal with this horrible mental attitude.

Hugh Meikle
5 July 2017