Justice Committee
Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill
Written submission from Mr Lindsay Scott

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. I find the proposal offensive.

2. Did you support the original legislation?

Yes I did, and still do.

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?

I believe it risks creating a gap on 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 fully support this section. All offensive football-related behaviour should be targeted, whatever the setting.

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?

I believe its repeal risks creating a gap on existing 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?

No

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

It has had a significant impact and must be retained in its entirety.

Lindsay Scott
5 July 2017