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

It has not been a successful piece of legislation, I feel that it was rushed though and it has also made me lose a lot of faith and trust in Police Scotland and the justice system in general.

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.

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003, simple breach of the peace, the anti-sectarian laws that Jack McConnell brought in? There are plenty of laws available at the justice system’s fingertips to deal with anything that happens at a football match.

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?

It is an abomination... Why should football fans be treated any different from the rest of society? Why no laws against rugby fans? Bowls fans?

It's a farce.

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 rarely been used since it was enacted and there are laws which the police and prosecutors can use like the Communications Act 2003.
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?

It should cease to exist with immediate effect, anyone going through court under this act should be let go and their case dropped and I also believe that the act was that much of a farce that anyone charged under it previously should have it removed from their record, it wouldn't take that long as there will hardly be anyone.

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

I don't think it has in the slightest... I don't think it was brought in to tackle sectarianism in the first place. There is already legislation out there to tackle racism/sectarianism/homophobia etc. This act was brought in to criminalise football fans, vocal football fans at that and has done a lot more harm than good.

Liam Quinn
16 August 2017