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Yes the Act is a corrupt act which is not fit for purpose and simply criminalise football fans and need to be repealed it has done nothing which it set out to do.

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 there are legislation relating to public disorder, ASBO, Breach of the Peace, Section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) act 2003 and Section 38 of the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) act 2010. I do believe there is sufficient existing legislation to be able to police football matches and this legislation doesn’t include the Offensive behaviour at football and threatening communications act.

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 personally don't see why football fans should have extra laws which would criminalise them for supporting there team who ever it may be, having laws which only apply to football fans would be totally unfair on fans and would not be appropriate

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 from my knowledge only been used twice so there for there is not a big need for it and there is other law provisions which could cover this (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?

There should be no transitional arrangement this act should cease immediately and any cases on going should be dropped and any convictions should be quashed and over turned.

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

I don't believe the act has tackled sectarianism in anyway and it has simply criminalised fans for supporting their clubs!

Tiarnán Haddock
18 August 2017