



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill - Stage 2

The Equalities and Human Rights Committee agreed at its meeting on 13 December to take further evidence to inform its consideration of amendments to the Age of Criminal Responsibility (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2.

It agreed to seek written evidence from those who provided evidence at Stage 1. Of particular interest to the Committee are the possible implications of raising the age of criminal *responsibility* to either 14 or 16, as well as raising the age of criminal *prosecution* to either 14 or 16. You can access the amendments lodged to the Bill [here](#).

The Committee has identified some areas where it would be helpful to have your further views:

- whether you are supportive of increasing the age of criminal responsibility/prosecution to 14 or 16; please explain the reasons for your views,
- the number of young people affected and the associated types of behaviour in these higher age groups,
- what changes to or additional services are required to support an increase in the age of criminal responsibility/prosecution to 14 or 16,
- the impact on young people of raising the age of responsibility/prosecution to 14 or 16,
- the potential cost implications for your organisation and any indication of the time required to make changes to support an increase,
- whether Scots Law in this area should be tied to the United Nations minimums, and
- any other impacts in relation to disclosure, victims and police powers.

Any views should be submitted by **Monday 7 January 2019** for them to be considered at the Committee's meeting on Thursday 10 January. Please note that you can answer any or all questions.

You can send us your views by—

Emailing us at: equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot

You can write to us at:

Equalities and Human Rights Committee
Room T2.60,
Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh,
EH99 1SP

You can find us on Twitter: [@SP_EHRiC](https://twitter.com/SP_EHRiC)

Before making a submission, please read our [privacy notice](#) about submitting your views to a Committee. This tells you about how we process your personal data.

Please use the [template provided](#) to format your submission. This includes the mandatory Data Protection Form. Submissions which are missing a Data Protection Form cannot be processed and may not be considered by the Committee. Such submissions will be returned to you.

We welcome written views in English, Gaelic, Scots or any other language. Due to the time required to process and analyse evidence, late submissions will only be accepted with the agreement of the Committee.

Written responses should be sent electronically, in the [template format](#) to the following address. Ideally, they should be no more than four sides of A4: equalities.humanrights@parliament.scot

If you cannot submit electronically you may send in a hard copy written submission. If you are sending in a hard copy submission please print off and include a copy of the Data Protection Form. Please send them to the address above.

The Committee appreciates greatly your assistance with its legislative scrutiny. Should you have any questions about this request, please contact the Clerks. You can ring us: **0131 348 5217** or **0131 348 6040**