



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Tell us what you think about the Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill



Easy read survey

Tell us what you think before
11.59pm on Wednesday
20 December 2023



Who we are



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

We are the **Health, Social Care and Sport Committee**.



A **committee** is a small group of people who are **Members of the Scottish Parliament**, also called **MSPs**.



The Scottish people decide who is an MSP by voting for them in elections.

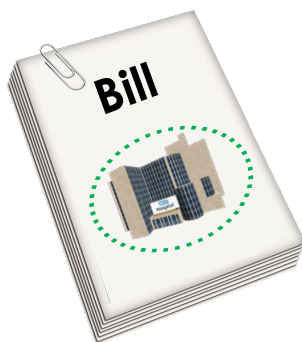


The Scottish Parliament makes **laws** in Scotland. **Laws** are rules that tell people what they can or cannot do.

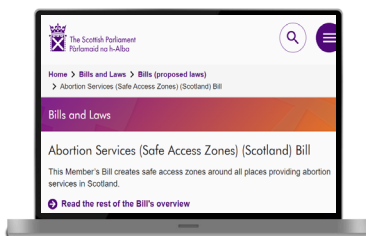
What this booklet is about



This booklet is about a new **bill**. A **bill** is a document that could become a law.



The Bill is called the **Abortion Services (Safe Access Zones) (Scotland) Bill**.



Go to our website to find out more about the Bill

www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/abortion-services-safe-access-zones-scotland-bill



The Bill will become part of the law in Scotland if the MSPs agree with it.

What the Bill is about



The Bill is about making **safe access zones** around places where **abortion services** happen.



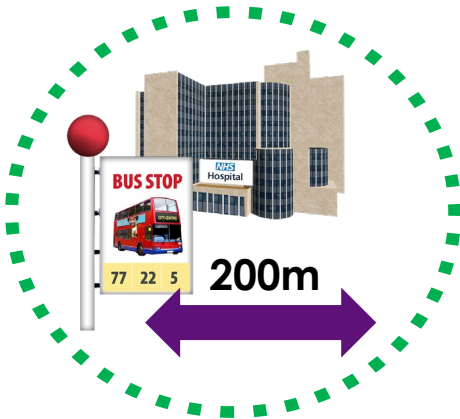
A **safe access zone** is an area that is made safe for people to enter and use.



An **abortion** is a medical process to end a pregnancy so that a baby is not born.

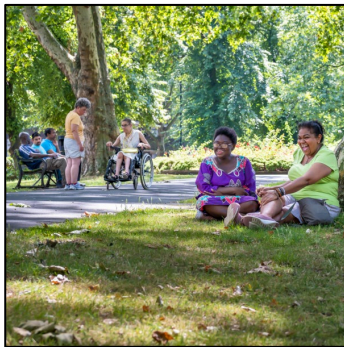


Abortion services are places where abortions are done, like hospitals. In the Bill, these places are called **protected premises**.



In the Bill, safe access zones for abortion services include

- the protected premises.
- outside areas around the protected premises, like car parks, pathways or bus stops.
- any other **public land** that is in an area of 200 metres around the protected premises.



Public land means an outdoor area the public is allowed to use.



The Bill says it will be an **offence** for people in a safe access zone to behave in a way that might

- make someone feel **intimidated** or **harassed**.
- stop someone getting an abortion.



An **offence** is a crime that can be punished by law.



Intimidated means someone is scaring you to make you behave in a certain way.



Harassed means someone is doing things that make you feel scared or upset.



If you are being intimidated or harassed when you use abortion services, it might mean people

- hold **anti-abortion** signs.
- **protest** about abortions.
- block the way into protected premises.



Anti-abortion means you do not agree with abortions.



Protest means show in public that you do not agree with something to try and make change happen.



People who are **convicted** of an offence will have to pay a **fine**.



Convicted means a **court** decides you are guilty because you have broken the law.



A **court** is an official place where people meet to make decisions about offences.



A **fine** is when you have to pay money because you have done something wrong.



The fine for an offence might be up to £10,000. If the offence was very bad, the fine might be more.



The Bill also says it will be an offence for people who are less than 200 metres from a protected premises but **not** on public land to behave in a way that might make someone feel intimidated or harassed.



This might include

- holding anti-abortion signs from a place that can be seen in the safe access zone.
- using a loudspeaker to protest in a way that can be heard in a safe access zone.

What the Bill is not about



The Bill is not about abortion law in Scotland.



The Bill does not say there should be changes to abortion law in Scotland.



The Bill is not about deciding if abortion services should be **legal** or not.



Legal means allowed by law.

Tell us what you think



We want you to tell us what you think about the Bill.



We have written some questions for you to answer. This is called a **survey**.



The questions are on **pages 13 to 22** of this booklet.



What you tell us is important. It will help the MSPs make the Bill better and decide if it should become a law.

About the survey



We will not use parts of your answers to the survey if you

- use **offensive** language.
- give information about someone else that could tell other people who they are, like their name, address or where they work.
- give information about a **court case**.

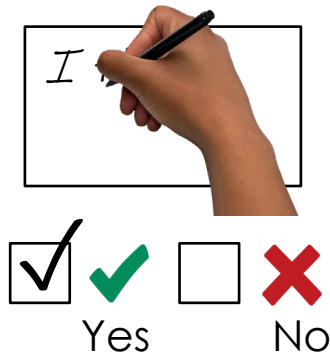


Offensive means bad language that might upset people.



A **court case** is when an offence is looked at by a court.

How to fill in the survey



- Write your answer in the box under each question.
- If the question has small boxes, tick the box next to the answer you want to choose.



When you have filled in the survey, post it to this address

**The Health, Social Care and Sport
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP**



The questions start on the next page.
Questions 6, 7 and 8 are **optional**.
Optional means you can choose if you want to answer them or not.



The survey

What we want you to tell us

Question 1

Do you live in Scotland?

Choose 1 box that is right for you.





-  Yes
-  No

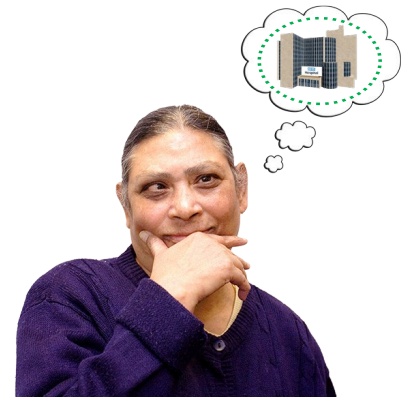


Question 2

Do you agree with what the Bill wants to do?

Choose 1 box that is right for you.

-  Yes
-  No
-  I agree with some of it
-  I don't know



If you chose **Yes**, please answer **question 3** on **page 14**.

If you chose **No**, please answer **question 4** on **page 16**.

If you chose **I agree with some of it** or **I don't know**, please answer **question 5** on **page 18**.

Question 3

Tell us why you agree with what the Bill wants to do.

Choose all the boxes that are right for you.



- I think people should be able to use abortion services without feeling intimidated or harassed.
- I am worried about the **human rights** of people who use abortion services or other services that happen at protected premises.
- I have used abortion services and I have felt intimidated or harassed.
- I work for abortion services and I have felt intimidated or harassed.
- A different reason. You can tell us more about this on the next page.



Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that every person in the world should have for their whole life.

The survey

More about question 3

If you chose **A different reason** for question 3, tell us more.

Write in the box below.



Go to page 19



Question 4

Tell us why you do not agree with what the Bill wants to do.

Choose all the boxes that are right for you.



- I think people who protest are there to help people who want an abortion.
- I am worried about people not being allowed to protest.
- I think the Bill will affect other human rights.
- I think there are enough laws already about abortion services.
- A different reason. You can tell us more about this on the next page.

The survey

More about question 4

If you chose **A different reason** for question 4, tell us more.

Write in the box below.



Go to page 19



Question 5

Tell us why you chose **I agree with some of it** or **I don't know** for question 2.

Write in the box below.



Go to page 19

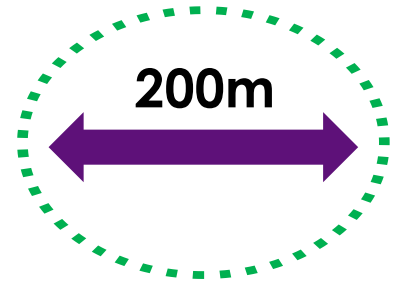





The survey

Question 6 optional

Do you agree that the safe access zone around protected premises should be 200 metres?

Choose 1 box that is right for you.



-  Yes
-  No
-  I don't know



Write in the box below if you want to tell us more.




The survey

Question 7 optional

Do you think the things that will be an offence in the Bill are fair?

Choose 1 box that is right for you.



-  Yes
-  No
-  I don't know



Write in the box below if you want to tell us more.

Question 8 optional

Is there anything else you want to tell us about the Bill?

Write in the box below.



The survey

Question 9

How did you find out about the survey?

Scottish Parliament website

Radio

Newspaper

Social media

Something different. Tell us what. Write in the box below.



Thank you for answering our questions.

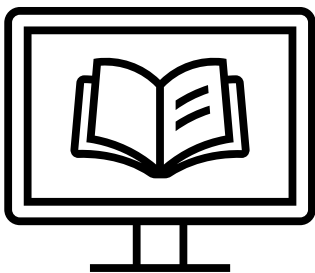
What we do with your information



Your information means anything you tell us that lets other people know who you are, like your name or email address.



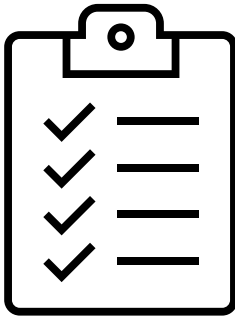
If you fill in the survey, we will not **publish** your information or what you tell us in your answers.



Publish means put something where everyone can read it, like on a website or in a report.



We will keep what you tell us on a system called **Citizen Space**.



We will read all the answers we get and write a **summary**. A **summary** is a short version that tells you the main information we find out.

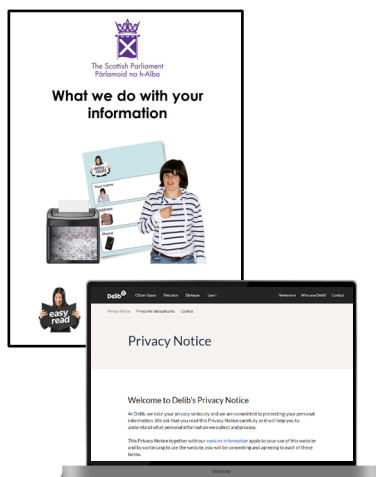


The summary will be published on the Scottish Parliament website. The MSPs will read the summary.



Privacy Notice

A **Privacy Notice** is a document that tells you what an organisation does with your information.



- Go to this website to read an Easy Read version of our privacy notice
archive2021.parliament.scot/Privacy-Notice/Submitting_Your_Views_to_A_Committee_Easy_Read.pdf
- Go to this website to read the Citizen Space privacy notice
delib.net/legal/privacy_notice

Contact us



If you have any questions about this booklet,

send an email to this address

SAZBill@parliament.scot

or call this telephone number

0800 092 7500



If you want information in other languages or in British Sign Language (BSL), please ask us.