

Consultation on the LDAN Bill (January 2024)

Q&A

Q	What does LDAN stand for?
A	'LDAN' means L earning D isabilities, A utism and N eurodivergence. It's the name the Scottish Government is currently giving to their proposed new Bill.
Q	What is the LDAN Bill about?
A	<p>The LDAN Bill is about improving the lives of people with learning disabilities (including people with Down's syndrome), autistic people and neurodivergent people living in Scotland.</p> <p>The Bill will be about better protecting their rights and it identifies a wide range of areas where change is needed if people with learning disabilities are to achieve their fullest potential.</p> <p>The Scottish Government is currently consulting the public on what could be included in the Bill.</p> <p>The public consultation runs to 21st April 2024.</p>
Q	How do I find out more about it?
A	<p>There are a number of ways you can find out more.</p> <p>You can go directly to the Scottish Government's website and read all about the proposed Bill and the consultation paper by clicking on this LINK. The Scottish Government website provides lots of Easy Read information, and it also has the link to let you respond to the consultation paper.</p> <p>Down's Syndrome Scotland has set up a dedicated page on our own website and you can access it here by clicking on this LINK. We provide more information about the consultation process, and you can also join one of our Grab A Cuppa sessions to find out more. The Grab A Cuppa sessions are listed on the DSS website page.</p> <p>The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) are also providing information on the proposed Bill and the consultation paper including two short animation films explaining the consultation process. You can access the SCLD website by clicking on this LINK.</p>

Q	How do I respond to the consultation?
A	<p>The Scottish Government wants as many people as possible to respond using the online questionnaire which is available here in this LINK.</p> <p>The Scottish Government is accepting responses in other formats too.</p> <p>So, you can provide your own written response, send in an audio response or record a video response. All of these responses should be sent to LDAN.Bill@gov.scot or you can send a written response by freepost to: FREEPOST - LDAN BILL</p> <p>Whatever way you choose to respond, it is vital that you complete fully the registration form called 'About You'. If a response is received without the 'About You' form being completed, it will not be considered. Here is a LINK to the About You form and here is a LINK to an Easy Read Version of the About You form.</p>
Q	How long have I got to respond?
A	The consultation process is now open, and you have until 10pm on Sunday 21st April 2024 to submit your response.
Q	Can anyone submit a response?
A	<p>Yes. The Scottish Government want to hear from as many people as possible. Anyone can submit a response and the Government is particularly keen to hear from people of all ages with lived experience, this includes children and young people as well as adults.</p> <p>There is a child-friendly version of the consultation with an accompanying adult guide to use to support children and young people to participate.</p> <p>You can access the child-friendly version HERE and the adult guide to help you support children and young people to respond is available HERE.</p>
Q	Do I have to reply to the whole consultation document and all of the questions?
A	<p>No. You can select what part of the consultation you are particularly interested in and just respond to that section.</p> <p>But you can also respond to a number of the sections or all of the sections – it's up to you.</p> <p>Whatever you choose to do, you must complete the 'About You' registration form and submit it with your response.</p>

Q	Can I get help submitting my response?
A	<p>Yes. Down's Syndrome Scotland (DSS) is hosting a number of meetings for its members to discuss the consultation paper and the proposed Bill. To help you, we will talk through how to respond, in these sessions. You can find out about the dates and times of these sessions from our website or click HERE to go straight to the bookings for these DSS events.</p> <p>If you are having difficulty responding – please call us on 0300 030 2121 and we will do our best to help you.</p>
Q	Can I just send a written response?
A	<p>Yes. You can read the consultation paper and send in a written response by either emailing it to LDAN.Bill@gov.scot or you can send it via post (at no charge) by sending it to FREEPOST – LDAN BILL (you must put all three words in CAPITALS). You must remember to complete the 'About You' form and sent it with your response.</p>
Q	Can I respond in other ways e.g. send in a video, send an audio file?
A	<p>Yes. If it is easier and more appropriate for you to send an audio file or a video recording, you can send them to LDAN.Bill@gov.scot. You must remember to complete the 'About You' form and sent it with your response.</p>
Q	What is the 'About You' registration form about? Why is it necessary?
A	<p>The Government needs to make sure that all responses submitted are genuine. The 'About You' form allows them to do that and make sure that it is a 'human' who is responding. The form also allows the Scottish Government to gather information about the responses and where and who they are coming from. This will be important in the analysis of all the responses.</p>
Q	What happens after the deadline of 21 st April passes?
A	<p>After the deadline, all of the responses will be analysed by independent consultants who will provide a report for the Scottish Government. Some of the analysis will get underway during the consultation process and all of the analysis will inform the next stage, which is the writing of the Bill itself.</p> <p>Once the Bill is drafted, it will then be presented to Parliament by the Minister where it will be debated and also scrutinised by committees in Parliament.</p>

Down's Syndrome Scotland will prepare a further Q&A based on questions received from its community. These additional Q&As will be posted on our website and made available to all our members. We hope this initial Q&A is a helpful starting point.