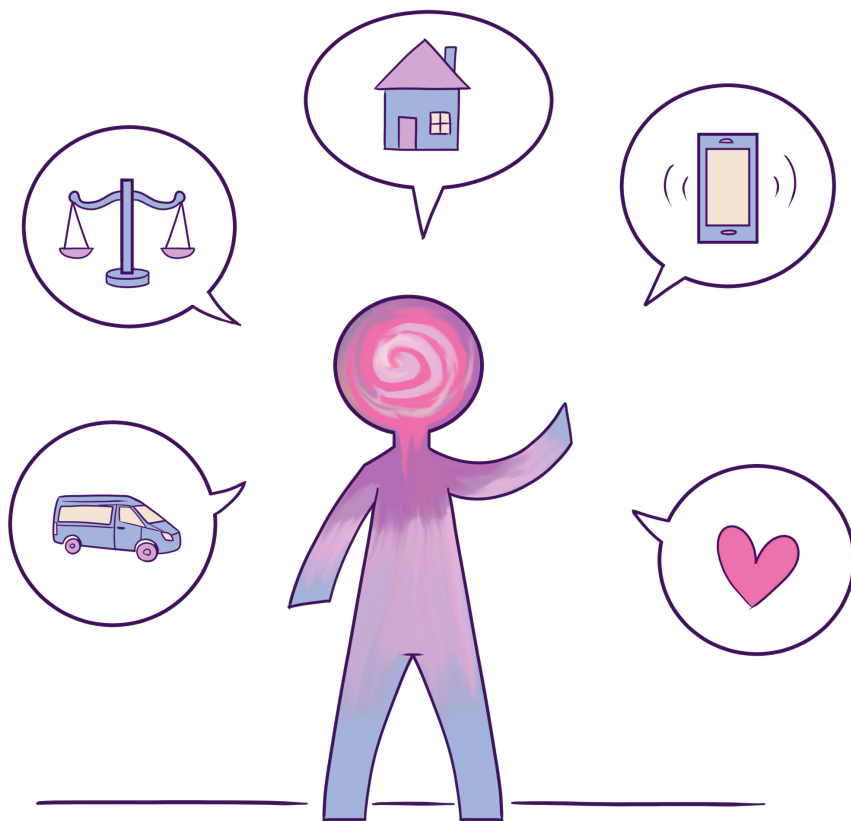


# Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: **Consultation Report**

Easy Read Version  
Booklet 1



August 2024



A consultation is when the government asks the people for their views. This is before changing a law or making a new one using a Bill.



This consultation was for people to tell us what they think a new LDAN Bill should do.



The consultation let people share their views in different ways from December 2023 to April 2024.



Since the consultation closed we have read everyone's views. We now want to share what people told us in this new report



This Report has 2 Easy Read booklets. Here is what this booklet will tell you:



Booklet 1 will tell you about:

- who answered the consultation
- what people said about the Definitions in the Bill
- and the 5 general themes of the Bill:
  - strategies
  - mandatory training
  - inclusive communications
  - data
  - independent advocacy.
- and the Accountability section.



## Who responded to our consultation

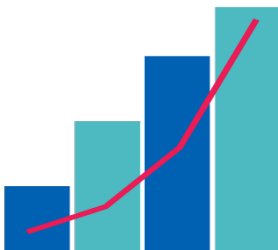


609 people responded to the consultation. People with learning disabilities and neurodivergent people responded on their own or with the help of their family members, carers and friends.



People who responded:

- 235 neurodivergent people
- 26 people with learning disabilities
- 326 families and friends of an LDAN person
- 207 carers of an LDAN person
- 76 people answered for an LDAN person
- 84 members of the public
- 18 people did not say which type of person they were



268 organisations responded. There was a mix of voluntary organisations and public organisations like the NHS. They spoke about their own thoughts and the views of people they support.



Organisations who responded:

- 9 private organisations
- 81 public organisations
- 124 charities and volunteer organisations
- 32 Disabled People's Organisations
- 41 other organisations
- 5 organisations did not say which type of organisation they were



We asked 61 questions. 5 questions let you pick an answer from a list so we can count the answers to those.



The other 56 questions were open so people could write what they wanted. We cannot count all the different things people said but we can try to say how many people said similar things.



We have done that by using words like “most”, “a lot”, “some” or “a few” to show how popular something was.

## Definitions



The most popular option was 'People who are Neurodivergent' or 'Neurodivergent People'. People thought this was clear and correct. Nearly half of people preferred this option.



Some people felt that learning disabilities needed to be thought of as a separate group. They said people with learning disabilities did not identify with the term neurodivergent.



'Including specific named conditions only': Just under a third of people preferred this option. People with Down's Syndrome and their family, friends, carers and support organisations supported this option.



But some people thought this option might leave out some conditions.

# General Themes

## Strategies



Strategies are big plans with actions.



National and Local Strategies: Most people liked the idea of a national plan to cover all of Scotland. This might make things the same for everyone across the country.



Guidance: People thought that guidance would be helpful but would not be enough on its own. They said people with lived experience from different backgrounds should be involved in writing this guidance.



Some people thought that a plan is not enough to make the changes needed. There will need to be enough staff and money for the plans to work.



Most people thought it was important for people with lived experience to be involved in making all plans.

## Mandatory training



Mandatory training is training that all staff must do.



People liked the idea of mandatory training for staff working in health, social care, education. They said there should also be training for staff in the justice system.



Some people wanted mandatory training for all staff in public services. This would include people with all kinds of jobs, not just people who talk with the public.



People had different ideas about what should be taught in the training.

## **Inclusive communications**



**Communicate**

Alternative ways of communication: Most people supported this. They thought it was important to have different ways of communicating so more people could access services and information.



A lot of people thought neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities should not have to ask for an alternative. The council should automatically provide the right type of communication.



People said that councils should have to write reports about how communication needs are met.



## Accessible Information Standard

Some people said an Accessible Information Standard for Scotland should be made. This would make clear rules organisations would need to follow.

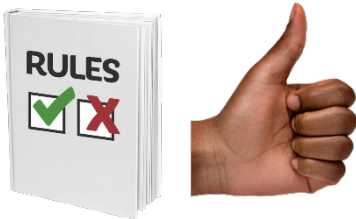


People said that people with lived experience should be involved.

## Data



Most people agreed with all of the ideas in this section. A lot of people agreed that one organisation, department or person should look after all the data.



Most people agreed that public bodies should have duty to collect data and provide it. A duty means that you must do it.



Most people agreed that there should be reviews of the deaths of people with learning disabilities in Scotland. They said it was important to look at experiences and learn how to make things better.

## Independent advocacy



Independent advocacy can help people secure their human rights.



People agreed that all public bodies should give all neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities information about independent advocacy services.



People said there is a need for advocacy services to help with difficult situations. But people were worried there might not be enough advocates for everyone who needs one.

# Accountability



The Accountability section at the end of the consultation set out 5 options that would mean more people and organisations would take responsibility for protecting people's rights.



- Option 1: Create a new commissioner: Most people supported this.



- Option 2: Give more resources and duties to an existing body: Only some people supported this.



- Option 3: Create champions and advocates within Scottish public bodies: Less than half of people supported this.



- Option 4: Give better resources to existing Disabled People-led Organisations: Just under half of people supported this.



- Option 5: Set up standards and guidance to support better work: Less than half of people supported this.



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