

**CONSULTATION: TRANSFORMING PAROLE IN SCOTLAND**

**RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM**

**Please Note** this form **must** be completed and returned with your response.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://beta.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

[ ]  Individual

[ ]  Organisation

Full name or organisation’s name

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

**Information for organisations:**

The option 'Publish response only (without name)’ is available for individual respondents only. If this option is selected, the organisation name will still be published.

If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

The Scottish Government would like your

permission to publish your consultation

response. Please indicate your publishing

preference:

[ ]  Publish response with name

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We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

**QUESTIONS ON STRENGTHENING THE VOICE OF VICTIMS IN THE PAROLE PROCESS**

**Question 1:** Do you think victims and their families should have a greater voice in the parole process?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If Yes**, what more could be done to help victims and their families be heard? **If No**, why not?

**Question 2:** Do you think victims and their families should be entitled to attend parole hearings in person?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If Yes**, what wider considerations would be necessary to manage this process, what support should be available and who should be responsible for providing that support? **If No**, why not?

**Question 3:** Do you think there should be clear criteria on the kinds of information the Parole Board should consider in relation to the safety and welfare of victims and their families?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, in your view what should that criteria be?  **If** **No**, why not?

**Question 4:** Do you think more could be done to strengthen the Parole Board’s current use of licence conditions (including conditions to exclude individuals from certain areas, or from certain individuals)?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, what would the implications be of extending this and how could this be managed in the community?  **If** **No**, why not?

**Question 5:** Do you think that victims and their families should receive information on the reasons for the Parole Board’s decisions in their case?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, what kind of information would be most helpful and how should that be provided? **If No**, why not?

**QUESTIONS ON ENSURING TRANSPARENCY**

**Question 6:** Should others be routinely entitled to attend parole hearings?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, who should be able to attend, in what circumstances and for what part of the proceedings?  **If** **No**, why not?

**Question 7:** Should information be routinely shared with others?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, what level of information should be shared or what more could be done?

**If** **No**, why not?

**Question 8:** Do you feel that some information regarding parole decisions should be published proactively?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If Yes**, what level of information do you feel should be published? **If** **No**, why not?

**Question 9**: Do you think the work of the Parole Board is sufficiently visible?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If Yes**, why do you think that? **If** **No**, what more could be done?

**QUESTIONS ON IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR DECISION-MAKING**

**Question 10:** Do you think that consideration should be given to widening the information available to the Parole Board by establishing a function to investigate and collate information from other bodies?

Yes ☐ No ☐

**If Yes**, who should provide that function and in what circumstances? **If No**, what other options are there to improve information gathering?

**QUESTIONS ON INFORMATION FOR PRISONERS ON THE PAROLE PROCESS**

**Question 11:** Do you think that prisoners currently receive the information they need to enable them to participate in the parole process?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, why do you think that? **If** **No**, what information or help do you consider should be provided to help prisoners understand the parole process and their licence conditions?

**Question 12:** Do you think that more could be done to make sure that prisoners understand their licence conditions and the consequences of breaching them?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, what do consider is the best approach to ensure prisoners understand the terms of their licence and who is best placed to provide information?  **If** **No**, why not?

**QUESTIONS ON SUPERVISION, REVIEW AND RECALL**

**Question 13:** Is there a requirement for an additional review process (at least initially)?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, who should carry out that review and what would you see as the advantages or disadvantages of an additional review? **If** **No**, why not?

**Question 14:** In relation to revocation of licence and recall to custody. Do you consider social workers should be able to refer directly to the Parole Board?

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**If** **Yes**, what are the implications of this change and how could this be managed? **If** **No**, why not?

**QUESTIONS ON INDEPENDENCE AND GOVERNANCE**

**Question 15:** Do you agree that a transfer to the Scottish Tribunals would enhance the independence of the Parole Board?

Yes[ ]  No[ ]

**If Yes**, what do you consider the advantages and disadvantages would be with such a transfer? **If No**, Why not?

**Question 16:** A review and appeal are available in the Scottish Tribunals. Do you consider these processes should be available for the Parole Board?

Yes[ ]  No[ ]

**If** **Yes**, what are the benefits of having these processes available? **If No**, why should these processes not be made available in the case of the Parole Board?