

Appendix 3 - Covid recovery: a consultation on public health, services, and justice system reforms



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

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://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Argyll and Bute Council

Phone number

01546 604325

Address

Kilmory Castle
Lochgilphead
Argyll

Postcode

PA31 8RT

Email Address

laura.blackwood@argyll-bute.gov.uk

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (without name)
 Do not publish response

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If you choose the option 'Do not publish response', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

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

Questionnaire

Chapter 2: Public health resilience

Question 1: Education: powers to make directions to close educational establishments, and to ensure continuity of education

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic H1 (Education: powers to make directions to close educational establishments, and to ensure continuity of education) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic H1 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic H1, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Argyll and Bute are committed to complying with the provisions made in order to ensure the safety of our children, young people, staff and wider education communities.

We are mindful of the importance of local context and as a result we are comfortable with the provisions outlined being extended but would welcome the retaining of flexibility around this and the possibility for further review and learning prior to taking a decision on permanence.

Question 2: Power to make public health protection regulations

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic H2 (Power to make public health protection regulations) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic H2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic H2 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic H2 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic H2, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The proposal to make the regulations permanent will ensure there is a flexible approach on a permanent basis ensuring Scottish Ministers can respond effectively and rapidly to any future threats to public health in Scotland not just in relation to covid. The powers confer functions on bodies and particularly Local Authorities and they require to be exercised in a flexible and proportionate manner having regard to the nature of the public health emergency and, at the same time, ensuring that appropriate additional funding is provided in tandem with imposition of additional functions, without which these can't be effectively discharged.

Question 3: Vaccinations and immunisations

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic H3 (Vaccinations and immunisations) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic H3 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic H3 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic H3 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic H3, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 4: Virtual public meetings under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010

It is proposed that new permanent legislative provisions for Topic H4 (Virtual public meetings under the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010) as described will be developed. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the proposed provisions for Topic H4 should be developed
- I do not think the proposed provisions for Topic H4 should be developed
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on the proposed provisions for Topic H4 please write them below.

Introduction of flexibility with regard to public meetings under the *Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010* would be a much needed improvement to the existing legislative provisions –

not just in times of future public health emergencies, but generally.

The general position should be that public meetings under the 2010 Act are held in-person, with the added flexibility of education authorities having a general discretion to hold public meetings purely virtually if considered appropriate in the particular circumstances pertaining to each individual consultation and weighing up all the relevant factors (along very similar lines to the proposals within this Consultation Paper in relation to alcohol and civic licensing hearings).

Alongside this flexibility, safeguards could be built into the process to ensure that all members of the public wishing to do so retain their rights to observe and participate in the meeting.

Furthermore, a hybrid model could be adopted whereby the public meeting takes place with a mixture of in-person and virtual participants/attendees. If so, this model should be explicitly permitted by the statutory provisions for the avoidance of any doubt.

There is certainly a strong argument that introducing virtual participation in these public meetings, as opposed to in-person only, will increase engagement and participation in said meetings, which will in turn generate better informed outcomes for consultations. It is suggested that the position of a meeting having to be in-person to be “public” is somewhat outdated given recent advancements in technology and the changes in various aspects of public sector business practices since the pandemic.

Chapter 3: Public services & justice system

Question 5: Alcohol licensing remote hearings

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P1 (Alcohol licensing remote hearings) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P1 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P1 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P1, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The Council are in agreement with the proposal that licensing board meetings should be held in-person as the norm, with a discretion to hold remote meetings should the board choose to do so in particular circumstances. It is stressed that the discretion on this issue should rest entirely with the board and not the parties planning to attend the meeting.

Likewise, in the case of a remote meeting, the possible formats by which parties can participate should likewise be at the full discretion of the board as to what options are available (e.g. video conference, teleconference and/or written submissions).

The safeguards re members of the public observing or participating in these meetings are important and should be explicitly stated in the legislation.

Likewise, an option for a “hybrid” meeting (with some members/parties attending in-person and others joining remotely) should also be explicitly permitted within the legislation and is a feasible option should it be practically viable for the board to facilitate this. This could be a helpful alternative in Argyll and Bute taking into account our remote rural and island geography and the difficulties that some parties may have travelling to meetings in certain cases.

Question 6: Bankruptcy: debt level that enables creditors to pursue the bankruptcy of a debtor through the courts

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P2 (Bankruptcy: debt level that enables creditors to pursue the bankruptcy of a debtor through the courts) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent (i.e. with a creditor petition debt level of £10,000 as per the current provisions)
- I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent with an amended creditor petition debt level of £5,000
- I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 (i.e. with a creditor petition debt level of £10,000 as per the current provisions), but not made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended beyond March 2022 with an amended creditor petition debt level of £5,000, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P2 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P2, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 7: Bankruptcy: electronic service of documents

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P3 (Bankruptcy: electronic service of documents) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P3 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent

- I think the provisions for Topic P3 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P3 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P3, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 8:

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P4 (Bankruptcy: moratoriums on diligence) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent (i.e. with a moratorium period of 6 months as per the current provisions)
- I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent with an amended moratorium period of 12 weeks
- I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 (i.e. with a moratorium period of 6 months as per the current provisions), but not made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended beyond March 2022 with an amended moratorium period of 12 weeks, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P4 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P4, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 9: Bankruptcy: virtual meetings of creditors

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P5 (Bankruptcy: virtual meetings of creditors) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P5 should be extended beyond

March 2022 and made permanent

- I think the provisions for Topic P5 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P5 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P5, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 10: Care services: giving of notices by the Care Inspectorate

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P6 (Care services: giving of notices by the Care Inspectorate) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P6 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P6 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P6 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P6, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

This should be made permanent as long as the Care Inspectorate maintain an up to date records system of the key contacts at the various regulated establishments

Question 11: Civic government licensing remote hearings

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P7 (Civic government licensing remote hearings) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P7 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P7 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P7 should be extended or made permanent

- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P7, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The council are in agreement with the proposal that civic licensing committee meetings should be held in-person as the norm, with a discretion to hold remote meetings should the committee choose to do so in particular circumstances. It is stressed that the discretion on this issue should rest entirely with the committee and not the parties planning to attend the meeting.

Likewise, in the case of a remote meeting, the possible formats by which parties can participate should likewise be at the full discretion of the committee as to what options are available (e.g. video conference, teleconference and/or written submissions).

The safeguards re members of the public observing or participating in these meetings are important and should be explicitly set out in the legislation.

Likewise, an option for a "hybrid" meeting (with some members/parties attending in-person and others joining remotely) should also be explicitly permitted within the legislation and is a feasible option should it be practically viable for the council to facilitate this. This could be a helpful alternative in Argyll and Bute taking into account our remote rural and island geography and the difficulties that some parties may have travelling to meetings in certain cases.

Question 12: Courts: intimation, etc. of documents

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P8 (Courts: intimation, etc. of documents) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P8 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P8 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P8 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P8, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The SCTS (Scottish Courts and Tribunals) website should be made the permanent method of posting the relevant notices. This is a far more effective way of informing the wider public than posting physical notices on the court walls.

Question 13: Criminal justice: arrangements for the custody of persons detained at police stations

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P9 (Criminal justice: arrangements for the

custody of persons detained at police stations) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P9 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P9 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P9 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P9, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 14: Freedom of Information: giving notice electronically

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P10 (Freedom of Information: giving notice electronically) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P10 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P10 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P10 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P10, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

In view of the increased efficiencies identified in the consultation document, we support this as a permanent change.

Question 15: Legal aid

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P11 (Legal aid) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P11 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P11 should be extended beyond

March 2022, but not made permanent

- I do not think the provisions for Topic P11 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P11, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 16: Legal writings etc.

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P12 (Legal writings etc.) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P12 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P12 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P12 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P12, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

The ability to execute documents and administer oaths, etc by other means such as live video should be made permanent. There is an increased use of Affidavits in legal proceedings in which the Council is involved and it has proved particularly beneficial, both in terms of convenience, time and efficiency, to be able to finalise these through remote means.

Question 17: Mental health: named person nomination

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P13 (Mental health: named person nomination) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P13 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P13 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P13 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure

I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P13, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 18: Parole Board: delegation

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P14 (Parole Board: delegation) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P14 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P14 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P14 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P14, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 19: Parole Board: live link

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P15 (Parole Board: live link) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P15 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P15 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P15 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P15, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Question 20: Remote registration of deaths and still-births

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P16 (Remote registration of deaths and still-births) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P16 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P16 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P16 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P16, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Remote Death Registration has been welcomed by customers and Registrars alike in Argyll and Bute where the benefits outlined in the consultancy paper have been fully realised in the 18 months since it was implemented. Satisfaction surveys of customers show they appreciate the less stressful process and it allows registrars to use their scarce resources more efficiently; particularly in our Island communities, where death registrations can now be done remotely by mainland registrars when needed. We fully support this process being made permanent.

Question 21: Remote registration of live births

It is proposed that new permanent legislative provisions for Topic P17 (Remote registration of live births) as described will be developed. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the proposed provisions for Topic P17 should be developed
- I do not think the proposed provisions for Topic P17 should be developed
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on the proposed provisions for Topic P17 please write them below.

Although a hybrid approach to birth registration was implemented in the pandemic the physical attendance at a registration office is still a requirement. Given the notable success of the introduction of remote death registration and the undoubted benefits that has provided for customers and registrars in Argyll and Bute, we would welcome the extension of that model to Birth Registration. This would allow similar efficiencies and resilience in terms of service delivery; particularly around the requirement to have a network of Home Based Registrars for very remote locations, whilst also minimising the need for customers to physically travel to designated places to register a birth. We also welcome the safeguard that face to face registration can still be required, for the rare occasions where the registrar has concerns about the parentage

information being provided by the informant, to allow closer scrutiny of information and evidences being provided.

Question 22: Tenancies: protection against eviction (discretionary grounds of eviction); and pre-action requirements for eviction proceedings on ground of rent arrears

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic P18 (Tenancies: protection against eviction (discretionary grounds of eviction); and pre-action requirements for eviction proceedings on ground of rent arrears) as described will be made permanent. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent, but only to the extent that rent arrears should continue to be a discretionary eviction ground – with all other eviction grounds returning to their pre-pandemic status
- I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent, but only to the extent that rent arrears should continue to be a discretionary eviction ground – with all other eviction grounds returning to their pre-pandemic status
- I do not think the provisions for Topic P18 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic P18, or the proposal for permanence, please write them below.

Extending the provisions within Topic P18 beyond March 2022 with a view to making them permanent will ensure that the private rented sector is an attractive proposition to households and will ensure appropriate protection for households who secure private rented tenancies.

Chapter 4: Responding to the impact of COVID-19 in the justice system

Question 23: Courts and tribunals: conduct of business by electronic means

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J1 (Courts and tribunals:

conduct of business by electronic means) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J1 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J1 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J1 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J1, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

The increased use of electronic signatures and email when lodging court documents, etc. has been far more effective in dealing with court business as opposed to the old requirement for posting hard copy documents with wet signatures. This change has worked well and should be made permanent. It has also reduced costs and time associated with preparing documents for court.

It would be helpful if there is a uniform approach in relation to this issue as some courts and/or sheriffdoms take differing approaches to others on this matter.

Question 24: Courts and tribunals: virtual attendance

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J2 (Courts and tribunals: virtual attendance) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J2 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J2 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J2 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J2, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

The provisions for this topic should be extended insofar as they relate to non-evidential hearings. In terms of uncontentious and/or procedural civil court hearings, these measures been a welcome alternative to attending court in person. The means of attending sheriff court hearings remotely have saved a significant amount of time, travelling and expense on the part of the Council's solicitors – particularly for procedural hearings. The need for physical attendance is negated when the matter can be dealt with written submissions being lodged by parties, or by a teleconference

should the sheriff still have questions for the parties.

However, notwithstanding the above, the general rule for evidential hearings (such as proofs) is that they should be conducted in-person unless otherwise directed by the sheriff. It is difficult to conduct a proof remotely due to having to coordinate witnesses, deal with technical issues, and make arrangements for all witnesses to have the productions before them.

In particular, the court's ability to assess the reliability and credibility of witnesses is impeded in virtual proofs in comparison to those held in-person.

Question 25: Criminal justice: early release of prisoners

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J3 (Criminal justice: early release of prisoners) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J3 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J3 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J3 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J3, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 26: Criminal justice: expiry of undertaking

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J4 (Criminal justice: expiry of undertaking) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J4 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J4 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J4 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J4, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 27: Criminal justice: fiscal fines

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J5 (Criminal justice: fiscal fines) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J5 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J5 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J5 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J5, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 28: Criminal justice: national court for cases beginning with an appearance from custody

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J6 (Criminal justice: national court for cases beginning with an appearance from custody) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J6 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J6 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J6 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J6, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 29: Criminal justice: time limits - relating to the time limit on summary-only cases at section 136 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act

1995 (1995 Act)

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J7(i) (relating to the time limit on summary-only cases at section 136 of the 1995 Act (Criminal justice: time limits)) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J7(i) should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J7(i) should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J7(i) should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J7(i), or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 30: Criminal justice: time limits - remand time limits at section 65(4) and section 147(1) of the 1995 Act

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J7(ii) (remand time limits at section 65(4) and section 147(1) of the 1995 Act (Criminal justice: time limits)) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J7(ii) should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J7(ii) should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J7(ii) should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J7(ii), or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 31: Criminal justice: time limits - extending time limits relating to the maximum time between first appearance on petition and the first diet/preliminary hearing and commencement of the trial at section 65(1) of the 1995 Act

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J7(iii) (extending time limits relating to the maximum time between first appearance on petition and the first diet/preliminary hearing and commencement of the trial at section 65(1) of the 1995 Act (Criminal justice: time limits)) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J7(iii) should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J7(iii) should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J7(iii) should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J7(iii), or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 32: Criminal justice: time limits - removing time limits on the length of individual adjournments for inquiries

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J7(iv) (removing time limits on the length of individual adjournments for inquiries (Criminal justice: time limits)) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J7(iv) should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J7(iv) should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J7(iv) should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J7(iv), or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Question 33: Proceeds of crime

It is proposed that the provisions for Topic J8 (Proceeds of crime) as described will be extended beyond March 2022. Which of the following best describes what you think about this?

- I think the provisions for Topic J8 should be extended beyond March 2022 and made permanent
- I think the provisions for Topic J8 should be extended beyond March 2022, but not made permanent
- I do not think the provisions for Topic J8 should be extended or made permanent
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have any comments on either the provisions for Topic J8, or the proposal for extension beyond March 2022, please write them below.

Chapter 5: Final questions

Question 34: Covid recovery

To support the key three themes for Covid recovery as described, do you have any proposals for legislation which goes beyond or is different to the consultation proposals in Chapters 2 to 4?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected “Yes” please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to which of the three themes are of particular interest to you.

Questions 35 to 39: Do you have any comments on potential impacts of the proposals in Chapters 2 to 4 of this paper, not sufficiently covered by the previous impact assessments, on:

Question 35: Business and regulatory impact assessment

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure

I have no view

If you have selected "Yes" please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Question 36: Child rights and wellbeing impact assessment

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected "Yes" please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Question 37: Equality impact assessment

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected "Yes" please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Question 38: Socio-economic equality impact assessment (the Fairer Scotland Duty)

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected "Yes" please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Argyll and Bute Council would highlight positive impacts of remote/online meetings, registration, electronic signatures, etc. which have been experienced to date by those living in our island and remote mainland communities, where many of the individuals living in these communities are generally older and/or have a lower than average income. Factors such as these in many cases can impact on ability to travel to carry out the aforementioned business in-person.

Question 39: Human rights

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected “Yes” please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Question 40: Data protection impact assessment

Do you have any comments on potential impacts of the proposals in Chapters 2 to 4 of this paper on data protection and privacy (the handling of personal data)?

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected “Yes” please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Question 41: Island communities impact assessment

Do you have any comments on potential impacts of the proposals in Chapters 2 to 4 of this paper on people in rural or island communities?

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected “Yes” please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Argyll and Bute Council would highlight positive impacts of remote/online meetings, registration, electronic signatures, etc. which have been experienced to date by those living in our island communities, where many of the individuals living in these communities are generally older and/or have a lower than average income. Factors such as these in many cases can impact on ability to travel to carry out the aforementioned business in-person.

Question 42: Strategic environmental assessment

Do you have any comments on potential impacts of the proposals in Chapters 2 to 4 of this paper on the environment?

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected “Yes” please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.

Question 43: Financial Memorandum

Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the proposals in Chapters 2 to 4 of this consultation paper for public bodies, individuals and businesses, having regard to the Financial Memorandum for the Extension and Expiry Bill?

- Yes I have comments on potential impacts
- No
- Unsure
- I have no view

If you have selected “Yes” please write your comments below. It would be helpful if you could refer to topics of particular interest to you with their topic codes.