



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Katy Clark MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for West Scotland Region

10th November 2021

Angela Constance MSP
Minister for Drug Policy
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our reference: DCR-JR

Drug Consumption Rooms

Dear Angela,

I am writing to you regarding the issue of drug consumption rooms and the possibility of their application across Scotland.

Last Wednesday, during a meeting of the Criminal Justice Committee, I asked the Lord Advocate Dorothy Bain whether she agreed there were “no legal problems” with a proposal for drug consumption rooms. She answered that she would be willing to give “fresh consideration” to a proposal that was “precise, detailed, specific” and backed by the police. Whilst I appreciate that drug policy is reserved to Westminster, it is clear the Lord Advocate considers that such a proposal could fall within the parameters of public health legislation in Scotland so long as the Crown Office agrees not to prosecute people involved in them.

I would therefore ask what the Scottish Government’s present position is on drug consumption rooms and when they will be opened across our communities. Whilst they are far from the only tool in our arsenal, they certainly have a part to play. During committee sessions, we have heard powerful testimonies from drug deaths activists about the various social and economic factors at place and how the war on drugs has dramatically failed in this country. Among these testimonies was that of Peter Krykant, who operated a safe consumption van in Glasgow. As he noted, people are dying in great numbers because criminal gangs control the market, addicts simply have no idea what they are consuming, and they are “dicing with death every time”.

Safe spaces for consumption have been backed by the Scottish Drugs Forum, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and the Scottish Government’s own Drug Deaths Task Force as part of a harm reduction strategy. It is now six months since the administration again took office, but the alarming drug death statistics demand we act now.

West Scotland, the region I represent, includes the two health boards with the highest death rates – Greater Glasgow & Clyde and Ayrshire & Arran. For the sake of the constituents I represent – as well as those affected across Scotland – I call on the Scottish Government to urgently pursue this legal route and lay out a plan for opening drug consumption rooms.



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Yours sincerely,

Katy Clark MSP
West Scotland Region