

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM ERIC MACKAY

May I submit a comment on the proposed 'Hate Crime Bill'?

I am a retired GP

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

Comment on the above.

Please note that the explanatory notes which are available on the Net, are in blue print on blue paper and very difficult to read, particularly when aged 92.

The preamble to the Bill includes the phrase 'likely to stir up hatred'. This introduces a vagueness into Law and by including the probability of 'hurt feelings' being used to shut down discussion of a wide range of issues. The Bill as it stands will limit free speech and can cause disagreement to be interpreted as a crime.

I cannot understand why the cautions included in Lord Bracadale's Independent review have been disregarded. It suggests that there are within Government those who wish to impose particular opinions on our society. We must not begin to justify 'thought police'

Eric Mackay

Date