

## JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

#### SUBMISSION FROM DOMINIC DOYLE

Hi there

Just read the proposed Bill and have some comments – probably completely garbled by your standards and before you read on please realise that I currently live in England – you may choose to delete this now.

However,

1. The Bill seems to go to great pains to ensure that IT social media platforms are excluded from possible prosecution under the Act. “Exceptions for mere conduits” .Is the argument still that since they have no editorial control they have no liability. My view is just because a company can exist and method of transmission does exist does not imply any divine right that it should exist. Please at least try. Say a tax on any platform per item hosted. Just the cost of doing business isn't it fair.

2. The wording of the enabling section of the Bill are far too broad to be reasonable in a democracy. 17.2.a

3. Likely 3.1.b you have to be joking. I read this proposal as that, if it is likely that offence could be taken then an offence has been committed. Likely – have you even listened to the statisticians throughout the Covid Pandemic so far trying to agree an any number. Likely – my flabber is well and truly gasted. What I feel right now could make me fall foul of some crime as a result of the passion I feel. I am offended and outraged that anyone in a free society could be so careless as to word a law so vaguely. Are you looking at the balance of probabilities or beyond reasonable doubt here. The current bunch of lawmakers proposing this act may be fine, fair-minded, benevolent and reasonable but.....

“as a result, it is likely that hatred will be stirred up against such a group”

I understand what you are driving at but be more precise in what you mean.

Finally, on a general note so please feel free to ignore completely. Who in the UK came up with the dumb idea the a self selecting group could report a “crime” with no conviction, investigation and purely in the opinion of the person reporting the incident to make it valid data. There is no such this as a valid Hate Crime statistic other then those convictions or police cautions that cite this. The rest are incidents as a crime is a fact and a self-reported event only could be opinions and feelings no matter how honestly held at the time.

Thank you for reading.

Dominic Doyle