

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM PETER LOGIE

Dear Sirs

I am very concerned about the provisions of the proposed bill. In particular I refer to question six.

There must be a clear distinction between perfectly legitimate debate and stirring up hatred. Because I hold a diametrically opposed view from someone does not in any way mean that in voicing this I hate the or wish to stir up hatred against them. Someone who had no intention of stirring up hatred could well make statements which others might consider abusive and so be guilty of an offence under this Bill. Religious and social issues are often contentious but this should not mean that they cannot be robustly debated or contested and so there should be provision made to protect free speech.

While this may not be the intention of the Bill is does move in the direction of the idea of thought police.

Yours

Peter Logie
09 July 2020