

**JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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

**SUBMISSION FROM ROBERT DALE**

I wish to make a brief comment on the proposed Hate Crime & Public Order (Scotland) Bill currently under consideration.

Firstly, thank you for all your hard work on this bill. We all desire to live in a civilised, considerate and respectful society, without hatred.

I am, however, a little concerned at the potential subjectivity of the wording. Making it an offence to use words “likely” to incite hatred (regardless of whether they actually do so or were intended to do so) might leave it open to interpretation, and encourage malicious complaints.

I would have thought intention was an important element in any criminal procedure?

Robert Dale  
(retired Baptist minister)