

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

HATE CRIME AND PUBLIC ORDER (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM DAVID MELVILLE

Dear sirs,

I would like to share with you my thoughts on the merits of Part 2 of the Bill and the plans to introduce a new offence of stirring up of hatred.

1. First of all I do not believe this Bill is necessary. There is sufficient legislation presently covering al of this.
2. I believe this Bill will further encroach on our freedom of speech and will stifle debate and discussion for fear of being accused of and charged with a criminal offence.
3. The Bill makes an offence based on subjective interpretation of someone's words and not the intent. This can and will be used by some with malicious intent.
4. ...

I could go on, but I am sure you will get the drift of my objections to the Bill, especially the lack of protection for freedom of speech.

Thank you.

David Melville
15 July 2020