

The Children's Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011 Safeguarder Panel Regulations 2012



RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Dundee City Council Social Work Department

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr *Please tick as appropriate*

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3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

(a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

(c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

(d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes

No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. For draft Regulation 3, do you agree with the proposed arrangements for the recruitment and selection of members of the Safeguarders Panel?

DCC SW department agree that the recruitment of Safeguarders has to be a consistent, transparent process. The recruitment process should be wide ranging in order to recruit from as many child centred, caring professions as possible:- Social Work, Teaching, Health, Legal etc. This provides a range of experiences and perspectives to the Safeguarders role and allows for multi agency input to the training programme. It is also agreed not to recruit from CHS or SCRA as it will avoid any conflict of interest that may emerge for Safeguarders. Consideration to Safeguarders working to Local Authority areas where they are not usually employed should be given. This may be particularly important for Social Workers and Teachers.

2. In respect of draft regulation 5(2) and 5(3), do you agree with the suggested prerequisites for appointment to the safeguarders panel?

DCC agree with this proposal for prerequisites for appointment. This is similar to core competencies that professionals are required to have in order to practice. If practitioners in the field are aware that Safeguarders have these prerequisites then mutual respect will increase.

3. In respect of draft regulation 5(4), do you agree with the proposed classes of persons disqualified from appointment, or from continuing as a member of the Safeguarders Panel?

DCC SW department agree with the proposed classes of persons disqualified from appointment to the Safeguarders Panel. There are some reservations regarding professionals who work in a particular Local Authority area being appointed on the Safeguarders Panel and then working to that area owing to potential conflict of interest. It is anticipated that a code of conduct will avoid any conflict of interest. To compare and contrast the quality of Safeguarders work, reports and recommendations in a particular area, DCC would be of the view that as wide a range of professions as possible should be Safeguarders working to that area.

4. Based on draft regulation 7(1) & 7(2), do you agree with the basis on which the Scottish Ministers must appoint and reappoint a person as a member of the Safeguarders Panel?

DCC SWD agree with the basis on which the Scottish Ministers must appoint and reappoint members of the Safeguarders Panel

5. In considering draft regulation 7(4), do you conclude that the grounds on which a person may be removed from the Safeguarders Panel are sufficiently wide?

Dundee City Council would conclude that the grounds are sufficiently wide. It is particularly welcome that the criteria are similar to those for the removal of Children's Panel members as this will provide consistency.

6. Do you support the requirements set out in draft regulation 8 – that mean that members and prospective members of the safeguarders panel must attend (and successfully complete) training required by the Scottish Ministers?

Dundee City Council is in full support of the requirements. This will bring Safeguarders in line with other professionals who have a responsibility to undertake post qualifying training as a condition of their registration. The element of the proposed training that covers how best to elicit the views of children is particularly welcome as our previous experience of this from Safeguarders has been mixed, for example, some Safeguarders have "gone the extra mile" to communicate with and elicit the views of children and others have presented reports to Children's Hearings without having direct contact with the child.

7. Do you support the proposals set out at draft regulation 10 for the payment of fees, expenses and allowances to members and potential members of the Safeguarders Panel?

DCC SWD would agree with this proposal. Standardising fees, expenses and allowances is part of standardising a high quality Safeguarding service.

8. Do you agree with the proposed arrangements set out at draft regulation 11(4) and (5) for the monitoring and assessment of the performance of members of the safeguarders panel? Are they realistic and proportionate?

DCC SWD agree with the proposed arrangements for the monitoring and assessment of Safeguarders performance. The suggested arrangements are realistic and proportionate. If frontline staff are aware that Safeguarders are undertaking this type of process in an effort to continuously improve practice then a mutual respect will continue to develop between frontline staff and Safeguarders.