



Section **3**
Your Response

getting it right 
for every child






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Introduction

We are inviting written responses to this consultation pack by 21 July 2004.

Please send your response electronically by accessing the questions on the Children's Hearings website: www.childrens-hearings.co.uk

or by posting this booklet to:

Children's Hearings Review Team
Area 2BS
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

If you have any queries please send an email to CHRteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or phone Alastair Crerar on 0131-244 7380.

Discussion Events

If you wish to talk with others about the issues and the questions in this pack, there may be a chance to join a discussion group near where you live. Look out for details in the local press or on the Children's Hearings website (see above).

You may also wish to contact your local Children's Panel, Children's Panel Advisory Committee or Children's Reporter. Their details are in the phone book or on the website. They will not be able to talk about any actual case, but can provide further information on the Children's Hearings system or arrange for someone to attend a group meeting to discuss the Review.



Your details

Name

Address

Post code

Contact telephone number

Email

Part 1 – Your response to the Issues And Questions in Section 2

Please record your responses in each comment box.
If you have no comments, please indicate **NC** and move on to the next box.

Introduction

Scottish Ministers are using this first phase of the Review to seek your views on three areas:

- the **Outcomes** that we are seeking to achieve;
- the **Principles** and objectives of the Children's Hearings system; and
- other **Issues** which need to be considered.

The second phase of the Review will then look at how to achieve the principles and outcomes agreed during this phase.

The background to the questions is in Section 2. Only the questions are repeated here.

The Objectives Of The Children's Hearings System



1. Do you agree with all of these objectives?

Yes No



2. If not, which ones do you disagree with and why?



3. Are there any other objectives you would like to see added?

The Principles Of The Children's Hearings System



4. Do you agree with all of these principles?

Yes

No



5. If not, which ones do you disagree with and why?



6. Are there others you would add?

Issues

Improving Outcomes



7. What should be the outcomes for children from the Children's Hearings system? Should the same outcomes apply to all other relevant organisations?

A large, empty white rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for providing answers to question 7.

Single System



8. Is it still right that one generalist system should look at all types of cases?

A large, empty white rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for providing answers to question 8.



9. If one system is to continue, would the service to the child and family benefit from some Panels or some Panel members being specialised in certain issues? Or should all Children's Panel members continue to be able to deal with any child before them?



10. How should child protection procedures and the statutory Children's Hearings system work together?



11. Do you think there is a lead role for the Children's Hearings system in co-ordinating action across all interventions with children to ensure that decisions are taken consistently? If not, who might have this role?

Empty response box for question 11.



12. Do you agree that there should be better evaluation of the impact of interventions on each child who is, or has been, in the Children's Hearings system?

Empty response box for question 12.



13. Should the new children's services inspection system also look at the work done by Reporters and how effectively Hearings are operating?

Empty response box for question 13.



The Hearings System And Parents



14. Do you think that the current system, plus the proposed parenting orders under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Bill, provides sufficient powers to influence parents' behaviour and actions?



15. Should there be further consideration of giving Children's Hearings a direct influence over parents, and if so, do you have any suggestions on the form that influence should take?



16. Should further consideration be given to adapting the current system to allow the Hearing to balance the rights of all family members alongside the interests of the child?



17. If the current system was adapted in this way, should the welfare of the child be the main focus, or should the interests of the family be the main concern?



Community



18. How can we improve the links between communities and the Children's Hearings system?



19. What information do you think should be available about what the Hearings system is doing in your area?



20. Do you think that recruiting local people is still the best way to involve the community in the system?





21. What other ways would help make the system feel more local?



22. How might young people contribute to or be involved in the Hearings system in a meaningful way? Which young people might be involved in this way?

Issues For Consideration In Phase 2



23. Are there any other issues which have not been covered in earlier questions or in this list but which you think should be considered during Phase 2 of the Review?

If you need more space or have further comments on any of the questions, please use the box provided on the inside back page.

Part 2A – About You

Please complete the details below. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately.

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

(a) an individual? (go to 2a/b)

(b) on behalf of a group or organisation? (go to 2c)

2a. INDIVIDUALS:

Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Executive (SE) library and/or on SE website)?

Yes (go to 2b)

No, not at all (go to 3)

2b. Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

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

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

2c. ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

Your name and address as respondees **will be** made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

Yes No

3. We will share your response internally with other SE 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 the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future for consultation or research purposes?

Yes No

Part 2B – More about you – Optional

This page does not have to be completed but it would be very helpful to us in analysing the responses to have some background information on who you are. Your answers to these questions will remain confidential.

- 1. If responding on behalf of a group or organisation**, has your group or organisation held any group discussions or meetings in connection with the Review of the Children's Hearings system?

Yes No (please go to Question 8)

- 2. If responding as an individual**, have you attended any group discussions or meetings in connection with the Review of the Children's Hearings system?

Yes (please go to Question 3) No (please go to Question 5)

- 3.** Which organisation arranged the discussion or meeting?

- 4.** Approximately how many people attended the discussion or meeting?

- 5.** Have you had direct involvement in the Hearings system, and if so, as a volunteer or a professional?

Volunteer Professional Other Not been involved

- 6.** If you have not been directly involved, would you say that you had a reasonable knowledge of the Children's Hearings system?

Yes No

- 7.** Have you had experience as a parent or child before a Hearing? (Note: you do not have to answer this if you prefer not to, but knowledge that your comments are based on personal experience would be helpful.)

Yes No

- 8.** Has this consultation exercise improved your understanding of the Children's Hearings system?

Not at all A little A lot

- 9.** Did the case studies in Section 1 of the pack help your understanding?

Not at all A little A lot

- 10.** Have you sought any further information on the Children's Hearings System:

From the website? Yes No

From a public event? Yes No

From personal contacts? Yes No



Part 3 – About The Consultation Exercise

For future engagement:

If you wish to access and respond to this consultation online, go to www.childrens-hearings.co.uk You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out where your nearest public internet access point is.

SEConsult

A new email alert system for Scottish Executive consultations ([SEconsult](#)) was launched in December 2003. This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new Scottish Executive consultations (including web links). SEconsult will complement, but in no way replace Scottish Executive distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to “keep an eye” on all Scottish Executive consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We encourage you to register as soon as possible.

Access to consultation responses

We will make all responses available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library **by 18 August 2004**, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website.

The Scottish Executive Consultation Process

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Executive working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Executive, there are many varied types of consultation. However, in general, Scottish Executive consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body. Consultation exercises may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups or questionnaire exercises.

Typically, Scottish Executive consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the area of consultation and they are also placed on the Scottish Executive website enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses.¹ Copies of all the responses received to consultation exercises (except those where the individual or organisation requested confidentiality) are placed in the Scottish Executive library at Saughton House, Edinburgh (K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh EH11 3XD, telephone 0131 244 4552).

¹ www.scotland.gov.uk



The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision-making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to Alastair Crerar using the postal address given in the introduction to this section or by emailing CHRteam@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Further space for comments. These comments relate to question:

