

## **Individual 30**

Hi

I read with interest the proposed bill. Having been the victim of domestic abuse, physical, mental and sexual, the emotional and psychological abuse certainly had the greatest long term affect.

It strikes me that the bill needs to include some resourcing of assistance to help the victim recover from emotional abuse. Ideally this would be funded by the abuser. I'm thinking of some form of therapy to help deal with the long term effects of this type of abuse. This is needed to acknowledge the long term effects on the victim, their lives and future relationships. It would also go some way towards giving a victim the strength to not be drawn back into a relationship with their abuser. This is a well documented problem.

Recovery initiatives are key here. This bill has the potential to make a real difference to victims, especially if it has a restorative element built in. The long term effects of psychological abuse has a massive impact upon not just the person but their long term mental health, which costs the health service. It also impacts upon a person's ability to get, keep and maintain a job, having an economic affect. Often there are children involved, whose lives can be damaged or limited by a victim who has emotional and psychological trauma to deal with.

So I would ask that the availability counselling or therapy be included in this bill, as recognition of the deeply damaging effect of this type of abuse and the ripple effect it has on individual lives, children's lives and potential futures of all who are impacted upon.

Yours