

Response ID ANON-6M7Y-AJR9-9

Submitted to Consultation on the Proposed Edinburgh Safer Drug Consumption Facility
Submitted on 2026-06-30 13:49:32

Your details

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

On behalf of an organisation

Organisation details

Please provide the following information about your organisation.

Organisation name::

The Royal College of Pharmacy

Your email address:

fiona.mcintyre@rcpharm.org

Third and voluntary sector

Other (please specify):

Your views

3.1 Do you support a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) in Edinburgh? (tick one)

I strongly support it

3.2 Please tell us why (free text):

RCPharm supports the introduction of a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) as part of an evidence-based response to drug-related harm, aligned with our policy Pharmacy's Role in reducing harm and preventing drug deaths (available on request) and the Edinburgh IJB's commissioned feasibility study. The study confirms extensive global evidence that SDCFs reduce overdose deaths, improve safer use, and increase engagement with treatment and support services.

Edinburgh faces significant need, with drug-related harms above the national average, complex patterns of use, and growing risks from substances such as cocaine, benzodiazepines and synthetic opioids. The study concludes that SDCF provision could make a positive contribution and should be introduced as part of a wider system.

SDCFs are not a standalone solution but a key component of integrated harm reduction, enabling engagement, reducing stigma, and supporting recovery pathways. Pharmacists have an essential role in medicines governance, patient safety, and controlled drug management, ensuring services are safe and effective. A SDCF offers a pragmatic, evidence-based intervention to save lives and reduce harm in Edinburgh.

3.3 Do you support a Safer Drug Consumption Facility (SDCF) being in the Old Town? (tick one)

I neither support nor oppose it

3.4 Please tell us why (free text) :

Drawing on our policy and the Edinburgh feasibility study, there is strong support for the introduction of a SDCF as part of a comprehensive approach to reducing drug-related harm. International evidence and the local needs assessment demonstrate that facilities reduce overdose risk, improve engagement with health services, and provide public health benefits.

Researchers from the University of Glasgow and Glasgow Caledonian University are evaluating the Thistle facility in Glasgow to better gauge its long-term impact on local businesses and area residents. (ENACT 2029) . Outcomes from this research will undoubtedly inform the decisions in Edinburgh.

From a pharmacy perspective, regulated facilities align with priorities around safe medicines use, harm reduction, and robust governance, with pharmacists contributing essential expertise in controlled drugs and patient safety.

Overall, an SDCF represents a pragmatic, evidence-based intervention that can make a meaningful contribution within Edinburgh's wider system of care, without offering a view on the specific location.

3.5 What concerns (if any) do you have about the facility being located in the Old Town?

free text:

3.6 What benefits (if any) do you think the facility could bring to the Old Town?

free text:

3.7 What other changes would make the area better and safer for everyone?

More support for people on the streets or in public places, Better access to drugs treatment, Better access to other support and healthcare, Needle disposal bins, More street cleaning

Other (free text):

Feedback about this consultation process

4.1 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this activity?

Feedback about process - I was given all the information that I needed to have my say:

Agree

Feedback about process - This activity was easy to understand:

Agree

Feedback about process - I was given the opportunity to have my say:

Agree

Please provide any comments or suggestions you may have about the consultation process.: