**Water Safety Scotland**

**6th March 2018**

**Update: Suicide Prevention Action Plan**

The Scottish Government will be consulting on their Suicide Prevention Action Plan in March and April. This will determine the national priorities for suicide prevention for roughly the next ten years. This provides a useful, timely opportunity to engage on our priorities.

We believe this is an important opportunity to recognise the number of suicides in and around the waterways and support actions already identified in the Drowning Prevention Strategy WSS have developed.

Water Safety Scotland could engage in the following ways:

1. **Consultation events**

As part of the consultation, Scottish Government will be running a series of events. If members wish to attend, the dates are:

[Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/BT+Murrayfield+Stadium/@55.9422351,-3.2429952,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x4887c65417739d0d:0x8d2f9e9f766f3af5!8m2!3d55.9422351!4d-3.2408065), 8 March, 9am-12 noon (lunch provided post session)

[Trades Hall, Glasgow](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Trades+Hall+Of+Glasgow/@55.8592933,-4.2489151,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0x440928a0cfd42c62?sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwignpSClIPZAhUMKsAKHRIaB9oQ_BIIggEwEQ), 15 March 10am-1pm (lunch provided post session)

[Spectrum Centre, Inverness](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Spectrum+Centre+and+Hidden+Gem+Cafe/@57.4806624,-4.2256555,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xec5b2da5830d69b7?sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwit77KYlIPZAhWkJcAKHdgHC1oQ_BIIdTAN), 11 April, 11.30am – 3pm (lunch included)

[Discovery Centre, Dundee](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Discovery+Point+and+RRS+Discovery,+Dundee/@57.4806653,-4.2278442,17z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x48865c951c5bc07d:0xe9ef2ec0d6a47380!8m2!3d56.4566189!4d-2.9686474), 12 April, 1030am – 1.30pm (lunch included)

[Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen](https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Beach+Ballroom/@57.1552225,-2.0796868,15z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0:0xefd8298f5120d245?sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiP1Oyp8IHZAhWFcRQKHWGXBiAQ_BIIkwEwDg), 18 April, 11am – 2.30pm (lunch included)

1. **Written response**

We would encourage responses from individual organisations as well as a brief response on behalf of WSS recognising the importance of this issue and broader recognition of suicides at locations of concern across Scotland. The opportunity has been presented to us as a result of the recent Parliamentary question following the strategy launch. Minister for Community Safety and Legal Affairs, Annabelle Ewing MSP, noted in Parliament:

*I very much welcome the news of the establishment of a sub-group. We afford great priority to reducing water-related suicide, and we note that that commitment is placed high up in the strategy. We are producing a draft suicide prevention action plan for Scotland. As part of that work, we will engage with Water Safety Scotland on any proposals to reduce the number of suicides by drowning. I am heartened to see the emphasis on that area in the excellent document, “Scotland’s Drowning Prevention Strategy 2018-2026”, which was published yesterday*[[1]](#footnote-1)

This response would need to be agreed before the end of the consultation, so likely before the next meeting of WSS.

In order to facilitate this we are happy to co-ordinate a short life group of those interested members to co-ordinate a response that is then signed off by the Chair/Deputy Chair/committee as appropriate recognising that this is not an issue which directly impacts on all members of WSS.

We are happy to take suggestions and guidance on how best to support this.

1. <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11339&mode=pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)