



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

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## Government response to the consultation on the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) (Amendment) Bill, 2021

*21st June, 2021*

*Ministry for Inclusion and Social Wellbeing  
89, Palazzo Francesco, Sir Ugo Mifsud Street, Lija LJA 1056*

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# Executive Summary

## Introduction and overview

### 1. A brief introduction about the subject.

This public consultation was in respect of amendments to the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Chapter 413 of the Laws of Malta), which seek to ensure fulfilment of Malta's obligations in terms of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the United Nations Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (the Paris Principles), and more specifically in relation to the structure and functions of the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, in general and in respect of investigations, compliance and enforcement, and redress mechanisms ensuring access to justice.

### 2. The public consultation date.

Include the objective and purpose of the public consultation.

On 19 May 2021, Government launched a public consultation in respect of this Bill, in order to obtain feedback from the public concerning its provisions, as well as about specific aspects of said Bill.

### 3. This consultation sought views on:

The text of the Bill, by asking specific questions through an online form about specific aspects of the Bill, and allowing respondents to also make additional general comments through the form or other channels.

## Responses to the consultation and process used to seek stakeholder views

This document is the Government Response to this consultation and sets out the Government's decisions on these matters.

### 4. The closing date of the public consultation. Which methods were used to receive the feedback. The total amount of responses. From whom you received the feedback.

Consultation closed on 16th June 2021. Few responses were received through an online form, which focused on disability services rather than on the text itself. Said responses were used towards finalising the national disability strategy.

5. Include (if any) meetings with stakeholders and list who the stakeholders were.

Meetings with the national disability federation, MFOPD, and with the parents' society, NPSPD, were held, as well as with CRPD, which also consulted its various structures.

## Summary of responses and decisions

The following is a summary of the consultation responses received. We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond to the consultation and participate in stakeholder meetings around the consultation exercise.

6. Statistics.

- Total feedback received: 7
- Total feedback received by individuals: 4
- Total feedback received by organisations: 3
- Total feedback received through email: 0
- Total feedback received through online form: 4
- Total feedback received by post: 0

7. Summary of feedback received.

Respondents through the online form commented on disability services, rather than on the text of the Bill. Discussions with NGOs focused on clarifications and implementation. As for CRPD, they suggested that procedures for the UNCRPD Redress Panel, and provisions in respect of administrative fines and penalties, be promulgated by Legal Notice instead of through the main Bill, to allow for further flexibility in future. The composition of Panels was also commented upon, to ensure that their substance remained unchanged, while making sure that sufficient panel members could be found.

8. Your assessment and the Government's decision (list the Government's decisions).

Feedback received from CRPD in respect of all points mentioned above was considered and taken on board.

## Implementation

9. When you intend to implement the decisions

Amendments were made to the Bill, for subsequent referral to Cabinet and Parliament. Implementation would commence following adoption of the Bill by Parliament.

## Contact Details

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact: [ddi@gov.mt](mailto:ddi@gov.mt)

## Detailed overview of responses and the Government's response

The following section provide a brief summary of the initial proposals and the responses received, before setting out the final decision that has been made.

There is nothing additional to specify further to the contents of Sections 7 and 8 above.