

78852629 - Jackie Baillie MSP

Proposed Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-Restricted Sales etc.) (Scotland) Bill

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

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)
Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)

Please select the category which best describes your organisation
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Please choose one of the following:
I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.
Jackie Baillie MSP

Q1. Which of the following expresses your view of creating a new offence of assault against a worker in the retail sector?
Fully supportive
Please explain the reasons for your response
Significant numbers of shop workers have experienced abusive behaviour while at work, this is not acceptable. A measure which would protect workers is well overdue and I believe that creating a new offence would deter people from becoming abusive.

Q2. Which of the following would you support as a way to respond to assaults on workers upholding statutory age-restrictions?

A new statutory offence

Please explain the reasons for your response

Ensuring that action can be taken at the earliest opportunity is key to keeping workers safe and making abuse an offence would allow for this. It also highlights that any form of abuse is not tolerated.

Q3. Which of the following would you support as a way to respond to abuse, harassment, threatening or obstruction of workers upholding statutory age-restrictions?

A new statutory offence (for all these types of behaviour)

Please explain the reasons for your response

One type of abuse should not be singled out. It is important to stamp out all abusive behaviour by treating them equally.

Q4. Do you think that there are other steps which could be taken (either instead of, or in addition to, legislation) to achieve the aims of the proposal?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Workers should feel safe at work. Knowing that they are protected by the law may help workers to feel more comfortable when carrying out their statutory duty. Alternative measures have already been used but the abuse of retail staff continues to increase. It is now time to ensure there is robust legal protection.

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

Q5.1. (a) Government and the public sector - Broadly cost neutral

Q5.2. (b) Businesses - Broadly cost neutral

Q5.3. (c) Individuals - Broadly cost neutral

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

Any cost would be offset by the reduction in staff absence from work due to the impact of abusive behaviour.

Q6. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

I do not believe that there would be a significant increase in cost.

Q7. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected groups (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

Protected groups may experience greater forms of abusive.

Q8. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

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Q9. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

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Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal, for example, other trigger points for violence and abuse, and other workers who should be covered?
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Q11. Which of the following describes your retail-sector experience (please tick all that apply)?

Q12. Which of the following describes your experience of violence or verbal abuse in the retail sector (please tick all that apply)?

Q13. Please give details of any personal experience that you would wish to share. (Please avoid naming any other person or giving information that would allow another person to be identified)
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