

77707562 - Roger west

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".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

-

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Roger west

Q1. Which of the following expresses your view of creating a new offence of assault against a worker in the retail sector?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think that any person who has face-to-face contact with members of the public in the course of their employment (including voluntary staff in e.g. charity shops) deserves to be protected from verbal or physical abuse. I don't know whether a new offence, or aggravation of an existing offence, is likely to be the most effective method. I am

concerned that the Police, who I believe are under financial pressure and have fewer officers in post than they need, may be unable to cope effectively with any increase in workload that may ensue from this proposed legislation. The responses to USDAW surveys quoted by you suggests that this is already a significant problem. If in practice the new legislation cannot be enforced, what is the point of enacting it?

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't know enough about the criminal justice system to know which alternative is likely to be most effective or most easily enforced.

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?

Either

Please explain the reasons for your response

See my response to the previous question.

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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Install CCTV cameras near tills. Ensure that there are notices warning of the consequences, including 'Smile please! You're on camera' !

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 - Unsure

Q5.2. (b) Businesses - Some reduction in cost

Q5.3. (c) Individuals - Some reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

If it leads to an increase in prosecutions, there will be an increase in cost to government. If it effectively deters the commission of offences, it could lead to a reduction in costs to government, businesses and shopworkers.

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

-

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

If it leads to a reduction of the total amount of offensive behaviour, sections of society who experience this to a disproportionately large degree may especially benefit.

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

I don't know what negative impacts are likely, and so cannot say how they could be minimised.

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.

'Yes' is conditional on the Police having adequate resources to enforce all laws of this type.

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?

Anyone whose paid or voluntary work brings them into face-to-face contact with customers/clients/members of the public.

Q11. Which of the following describes your retail-sector experience (please tick all that apply)?

Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises (e.g. pub)	No
Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption off the premises (e.g. shop)	No
Working in premises selling other age-restricted products (e.g. tobacco, knives etc.)	No
Working in other retail premises	No
None of the above	Yes

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

I have been the victim of physical violence	No
I have been the victim of verbal abuse	No
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence	No
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse	No
None of the above	Yes

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)

-

