

79700369

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

Page 2: About you

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

No Response

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Neil Bibby MSP

Page 7: Your views on the proposal - Aim and approach

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

A new law would send out the message that violence and abuse towards retail workers is unacceptable. It would ensure that victims and potential offenders are aware that abuse and violence are illegal. A new law would also help to break the cycle of under-reporting.

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

Either

Please explain the reasons for your response

Both a statutory offence and statutory aggravation would serve to increase the awareness of the issue of violence and abuse towards shopworkers and hopefully prevent abuse and violence. A statutory aggravation could increase the severity of punishment for existing crimes, while a new statutory offence would capture new offences such as obstruction. This may help to prevent an escalation in incidents which lead to disorder, abuse or violence.

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

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

Page 11: Financial impact

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

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector		X				
(b) Businesses				X		
(c) Individuals			X			

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

There may be some increase in costs to the government and public sector due to increased awareness and potential increase in work of Police or courts. There may also be a reduction in costs to business through fewer staff absences and lower staff turnover.

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

No

Page 13: Equalities

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 response.

There is some evidence to suggest that the victims of the behaviour that this bill is trying to prevent would be more likely to be female, as more women than men work in the retail sector.

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

No Response

Page 15: Sustainability

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 response.

Reducing staff absence and turnover due to abuse and violence could have positive impact on both businesses' sustainability, and positive wellbeing of their staff.

Page 16: General

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?

No Response

Page 17: Personal Experience - Optional questions

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

None of the above

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

None of the above

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)

No Response