

77832293

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

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Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

Assault is assault and I think that should be the offence, at the same time retail workers have de facto responsibility for policing age restricted sales and the law should protect them specifically, because the law itself asks they put themselves at risk.

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

A new statutory aggravation

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think statutory aggravation may be a sufficient protection.

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 aggravation for threatening or abusive behaviour or harassment; and a new statutory offence of obstructing a worker upholding an age-restriction.

Please explain the reasons for your response

abusive behaviour and harassment are already offences. aggravated by the circumstance. Obstructing the worker from doing their duty under the law is an offence against someone whose job is to police this aspect of the law.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

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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 - Some reduction in cost

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

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

The savings to individual workers must be a HEALTH AND SAFETY BENEFIT.

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

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Please explain the reasons for your responses.

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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.

Most positive impact likely to be on elderly and female retail workers, given aggressive young males are most likely to be prime offenders.

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.

Bill supports better operation of existing law. Age restricted products generally have a high propensity to damage health if consumed by the young.

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)?

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| Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises (e.g. pub) |
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| Yes |
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| Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption off the premises (e.g. shop) | Yes |
| 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)?

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| 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)

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