

72213521 - Retailers Against Crime

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

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

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".)
-

Please select the category which best describes your organisation
<i>Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)</i>

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Having worked alongside retailers for over 20 years, we have witnessed first hand the detrimental effect abuse and violence can have on staff. Many see it as 'part of the job' which is simply not acceptable. Whether it is a fashion retailer or those who sell age restricted products abuse and violence is a daily occurrence.

I believe that if the bill is passed it will also act as a deterrent hence preventing the crime.

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

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

This would make the message crystal clear.

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.

There is the charge of 'common assault' which many would say can be used at present.

However many retailers sell age restricted products and by law often have to ask customers for identification for example.

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 - Significant reduction in cost

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

The Bill would act as a deterrent - saving financially all round, but most importantly protecting workers.

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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

The bill is about protecting workers and this is a definite positive.

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

-

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.

-

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?

All public facing workers.

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)

-