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By email to:

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17 April 2018

DX: ED 545309

Our Ref:

Your Ref:DS

Dear Sir/Madam

**Consultation – Proposed Protection of Workers (Retail and Age Restricted Sales etc) (Scotland) Bill**

I refer to the consultation documents relating to the Proposed Protection of Workers (Retail and Age Restricted Sales etc) (Scotland) Bill, to which I respond on behalf of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS).

The response is submitted by the SCTS acting in its role to provide efficient and effective administration to the courts and does not include the views of the Judiciary.

Whilst SCTS cannot comment on the policy of introducing an offence or statutory aggravator, I would like to note the following points, in response to Q5(a) of the consultation.

**Q5(a) - Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on Government and the public sector:**

The Bill proposes either creating a new offence (or offences) designed to protect a worker in the retail sector or alternatively introduce a statutory aggravation to be added to existing offences.

The consultation document sets out that these proposals would impact the police and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) however we would ask you to note that there would also be an impact on SCTS resources which does not appear to be currently reflected in the consultation document.

Either of these proposals is likely to impact the SCTS in terms of:

- court time and relative court programming;
- associated staff and accommodation resources, and
- costs involved in relevant IT changes.

Should specific proposals be taken forward, the SCTS would welcome the opportunity to be kept informed of any developments, including, where required, contributing towards any financial memorandum or relevant impact assessment.

I am content for this response to be published.

If you require any further information please let me know.

Yours faithfully

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