

74186637 - Gordon McKenna ITG Productions

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Gordon McKenna ITG Productions

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

It is totally inexcusable in this day and age for anyone to commit an act of assault against any member of staff in the

retail sector. There needs to be unconditional protection for this group of workers. Assault is assault no matter who it is committing

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

This avenue makes it unequivocal and not open to 'mis-interpretation'.

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 should be a catch-all Bill avoiding any potential loopholes.

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.

I believe alternative options should and would have already been explored / exhausted, before proposing this new Bill.

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 - Broadly cost neutral

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

With criminal charges arising against anyone breaking the law, there may be more criminal cases but it should result in a reduction in assaults against retail staff. So should be cost neutral to individuals.

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.

Need to read the draft legislation before commenting one way or the other.

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 obvious applies here.

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

I do not perceive there to be any negative impact as a consequence of this proposed Bill.

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.

Again this should be impact neutral.

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 specific comments at this stage. As with any new proposed legislation, there may be a period of 'settling - in' to gauge how effective it is in achieving its' aims and objectives.

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 | Yes |
| None of the above | No |

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 | Yes |
| None of the above | No |

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)

Seeing a member of staff being 'verbally abused by an irate customer - no matter how hard-done by the customer may feel - is not a particular pleasant thing to see. Regardless, any kind of abuse - be it implied, threatened or actual is totally unacceptable

