

77665295

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 opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think it would be more appropriate to strengthen existing common law through the development of policy initiatives that encourage reporting and the cooperation of the police in dealing with reports of abuse.

Specific protections for those involved in the sale or supply of age-restricted goods and services is welcome, but the wording in this bill is too vague. I would support introducing a statutory offence for abuse that occurs in response to a request for ID or refusal of sale on the basis of age, but not in other circumstances.

My concern with introducing a statutory offence for retail staff in general, is that it places a legal bias that favours retail workers over other workers and members of the public who also suffer abuse. Reporting and investigating accusations of abuse needs to be strengthened across all areas of work and life in Scotland, and I don't believe that

is helped by a bill that focuses on one group. The findings of this report should be harnessed to improve existing law in a way that benefits all victims of abuse.

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

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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

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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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Information and support for workers on their legal rights, and ensuring prosecution services are adequately resourced to pursue reports of abuse.

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 - Unsure

Q5.2. (b) Businesses - Unsure

Q5.3. (c) Individuals - Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

Not my area of knowledge

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.

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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 negative

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

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

Make the statutory offences about age-restricted sales, not retail in general.

Strengthen prosecutions of abuse in a way that will benefit all of society, not in a way that favours a certain group of workers.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

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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)?

Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises (e.g. pub)	Yes
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	No
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	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence	No
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse	No
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)

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