

80279246

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

Page 2: About you

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".)

Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Ian Murray MP

Page 7: Your views on the proposal - Aim and approach

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

A new law would provide a strong message that violence and abuse are unacceptable. For too many workers, abuse and violence have become 'just part of the job'. In order to change that, a new law would do three positive things: - Ensure that victims and potential perpetrators are aware that abuse and violence

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

are illegal, and carry significant consequences. - It will help to break the cycle of under-reporting, where victims feel it is just part of the job. - Make workplaces for retail workers safer.

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

We need a zero tolerance approach and to send the message that this is unacceptable. It may also give workers more comfort that there is a harsher sentence afforded to perpetrators and, therefore, may deter.

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

- Both a statutory offence and statutory aggravation would help to increase the awareness of the issue, thus hopefully preventing abuse and violence. - A statutory aggravation could have the benefit of increasing the severity of the punishment for existing crimes, while a new statutory offence could capture new offences, for example obstruction. This may help to prevent issues escalating.

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.

This should be done extended to all frontline public workers. Proposals currently going through Westminster, with cross party support, are to protect emergency workers from abuse, intimidation and violence.

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector		X				
(b) Businesses				X		
(c) Individuals			X			

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

(a) awareness campaign (b) staff absence and injury reporting (c) no change

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

Unsure

Page 13: Equalities

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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

No Response

Page 15: Sustainability

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

Page 16: General

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 Response

Page 17: Personal Experience - Optional questions

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)

Q12. Which of the following describes your experience of violence or verbal abuse in the retail sector (please tick all that apply)?

I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence

I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse

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)

No Response