

77663219 - peter kennedy

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".)
Academic with expertise in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Q1. Which of the following expresses your view of creating a new offence of assault against a worker in the retail sector?
Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response

I fully agree that all workers should be able to carry out their responsibilities without fear of abuse, physical or otherwise.

If it is physical abuse then the law already exists.

I think in general that it is a matter for trade unions and employers to have zero tolerance for abuse of employees from

customers and there are a number of other ways other than the law that this can be dealt with.

Q2. Which of the following would you support as a way to respond to assaults on workers upholding statutory age-restrictions?

Neither

Please explain the reasons for your response

see previous comment

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?

Neither

Please explain the reasons for your response

the above list makes for a lot of grey areas open to interpretation.

I also think that employers not employees bear the responsibility for checking age issues.

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.

yes. Trade union collective involvement with employers. Employees taken out of the line of fire so to speak and for employers to step up to embrace their responsibilities in this case.

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.

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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?

Neutral (neither positive nor 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?

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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?

workers versus customers or patients (in the case of health and medicine) is always a concern and when the law is used it is usually a sticking plaster over a deeper problem that requires dealing with anyway. Workers and customers are one and the same in different facets of their lives. It is social pressures, at work, poverty, stress; as well as lack of education around our responsibilities to each other as citizens that requires change. A new law can do relatively little and actually puts off dealing with the latter.

Q11. Which of the following describes your retail-sector experience (please tick all that apply)?

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

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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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