

79533607

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jonny Stewart, JD Wetherspoon plc.

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

As your campaign states, many of us simply accept that violence towards staff is just a part of the job, which just isn't right. In my 11 & a half years working in the licensed trade I've been punched, pinned against a door, had food thrown at me, spat on, thrown over a table and been subjected to homophobic

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

abuse, just for doing my job. This campaign is long overdue, as it would not be accepted in other working environments, so why should ours be an exception?

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

Unsure

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

We need a more severe penalty for serious instances such as violence.

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.

A nationwide PR campaign highlighting the issue, similar to the drink drive initiative

Page 11: Financial impact

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.

I'd expect the government to incur some costs for implementing the proposed bill

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

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Prevention is better than the cure. Focus on communicating the purpose of the bill - posters made available in bars/nightclubs etc., education in schools

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

While only a minority of the incidents I've experienced are related to orientation, there have been some occasions, so it can only help.

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

Consult with people from the industry who have these protected characteristics - find out how they feel it can be minimised.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It's a simple bill - don't abuse people doing their jobs. It's a simple message to get across and can be done relatively easily in my opinion

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?

Ensure staff are encouraged to report offences, no matter how small. Personally, I've never reported any verbal abuse, such as homophobic, probably because I just accept it happens. I think I may also not report crimes which I'd regard as less significant as I know police time is under pressure and they have better things to be dealing with.

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 been the victim of physical violence

I have been the victim of verbal abuse

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)

In March 2018 in a pub in North Lanarkshire, a male walked in to the pub and began verbally abusing me and causing a scene over claims the fruit machine had stolen his money. He was later arrested.

In 2015 I refused service to two males in a pub in Dundee for making lewd comments to a female member of staff. The tow male proceeding to verbally abuse me, leaned across the bar & punched me, spat in my face and opened a cake server on the bar and threw its contents at my head. This was reported but they were not traced.

In 2013 in a pub in Dundee following an SDL march, a table were refused service for behavioural reasons and refused to leave. The police were called and they arrested one male in the pub. The remainder of the group then tried to attack the police so I intervened and was literally thrown across a table twice by a male of at least 6ft 5" in the process. The case was taken to court where he pled guilty.

In a pub in Midlothian circa 2010, I refused a male serviced for being too drunk. He then came behind the bar threatening me until two colleagues managed to assist. As he was physically removed, a police car happened to be passing.