

79867338

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Anas Sarwar MSP
MSP for the Glasgow Region

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

I fully support the creation of a new offence of assault against a worker in the retail sector. Many workers feel abuse and violence have become 'part of the job'. The new law would break the cycle of under-reporting. All too often perpetrators who commit assault on staff are not sent to court, those who are can

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

receive derisory sentences. This means where the offender isn't even charged, victims are left feeling that no one cares that they were assaulted. The new law would ensure that victims and possible perpetrators are aware that abuse and violence are illegal, and carry harsh consequences. Many Scottish shopworkers are on the frontline of dealing with the general public and that can mean they end up on the wrong side of a verbal or physical assault. I fully support the proposed bill.

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

Either

Please explain the reasons for your response

Both a statutory offence and aggravation could work. It would help to increase the awareness of the issue, hopefully stopping 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.

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?

Either

Please explain the reasons for your response

Both a statutory offence and aggravation could work. It would help to increase the awareness of the issue, hopefully stopping 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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response.

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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.

In terms of Government and public sector there could be some increase in cost. This would be due to work to increase public awareness and the potential increase in work of police or courts. For business there would be some reduction in cost due to a fall in staff absences lower staff turnover

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.

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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.

There is evidence to suggest that the victims of the behaviour that this bill is trying to prevent would be more likely to be female, as more women than men work in the retail sector.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I do believe proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts. This will be due to reducing the number of staff absence and turnover from violence which could have positive impact on both businesses' sustainability, and positive wellbeing of their staff.

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

Page 17: Personal Experience - Optional questions

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

No Response

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

No Response

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