

80289052

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Danielle Rowley 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. Sadly we know that for too many workers, abuse and violence have become 'just part of the job', I believe that is unacceptable. In order to do that a new law would ensure that victims and potential perpetrators are aware that abuse

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

and violence are illegal, and carry significant consequences. It would also help to break the cycle of under-reporting, where victims feel it is just part of the job.

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**

I would be interested in the outcomes of the consultation regarding this. However I believe that 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.

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**

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?

No

## 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
<b>(a) Government and the public sector</b>		X				
<b>(b) Businesses</b>				X		

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

(c) Individuals			X			
-----------------	--	--	---	--	--	--

**Please explain the reasons for your responses.**

Government and public sector – Some increase in cost (due to work to increase public awareness, and potential increase in work of police or courts). Business – Some reduction in cost (due to fewer staff absences, and less staff turnover) Individuals – Broadly cost neutral

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

No

## 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

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.**

Reducing staff absence and turnover due to abuse and violence 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)?

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 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*