

79785771

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Alan Butler, Retail Manager

### 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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

What is the point? The police are under resourced, they do their best but when you look at the number of Officers to cover such a huge geographic area they are spread too thinly. This isn't a criticism of them, they do a great job with the resources they have. This appears to be more politicians talking instead of acting. Retailers are being targeted by Romanian Organised Crime Gangs that people don't really want to

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

talk about because of political correctness. They operate out of Govanhill and travel on a daily basis as far as Tayside and Lothians, they know the working patterns of security guards, come in numbers with ear-pieces to communicate and distract while attempting to steal up to £700 at a time of Beers, Wines and Spirits at a time. When the police do tackle them they are powerless to do anything about it, they are often released on bail, why are they even in our country in the first place, they add no economic benefit and are career criminals. I want tough actions from our politicians getting to the root cause and talking excusing it because of Freedom of Movement.

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**

Assault is assault, should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law regardless of who the victim is. How many specific interest groups can our politicians dream up in order to court votes. Given the recent proposals from the SG about no jail terms for less than 1 year they're not likely to get any more than a slap on the wrist anyway.

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**

Please see previous response.

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.**

Remove foreign nationals from our country who have no means of supporting themselves except to work as part of Romanian Organised Crime Gangs who target retailers. They shouldn't be here but because of Freedom of Movement in the EU no one wants to discuss it, even when I'm not in work and in other towns I've had people stopped by the police because I've recognised them, they act with impunity, they are already breaking the law of the land and you want to introduce new laws. Enforce the ones we have, this is a real problem for Retailers and would welcome some time with you to truly explain how much of an issue it is.

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.**

You can't enforce the laws we have and you want to introduce more! Act instead of talk!

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.**

Get to the root cause of the problem, tackle the Crime Gangs operating across Scotland out of Govanhill and will have a lot more benefits of reducing Costs and Safety than new legislation.

## 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?

Unsure

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

Seriously! A crime is a crime, regardless of the victim.

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

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## 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?

Unsure

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

Seriously?! If you think this is a concern to the Bill then I'm not surprised Organised Crime Gangs can operate with impunity when the people running the country think this is a concern.

## 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?

Please see previous answers about Organised Crime Gangs operating out of Glasgow targeting Retailers across Scotland.

## 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)

Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption off the premises (e.g. shop)

Working in premises selling other age-restricted products (e.g. tobacco, knives etc.)

Working in other retail premises

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 verbal abuse

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)

As discussed in previous answers Romanian Organised Crime Gangs travel all over Scotland out of Glasgow, they know the working patterns of security guards so they know on what day to target a specific

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)

retailer. They arrive in gangs and often wear ear-pieces so they can communicate within the store, some distract the shop-workers while one will fill the trolley with up to £700 at a time of Spirits in order to attempt a push through. If you spot them then they will abandon the trolley and as they haven't passed the last point of purchase they haven't committed a crime so leave and a lot of time 101 don't want to know as no crime as been committed. I've have several meetings with Fife Police and their support has been excellent but I do get them impression we are papering over the cracks. These are professional gangs who operate with impunity and until we get to the root cause then it will continue. They will also target chewing gum and baby milk to be resold. It is only a matter of time before someone is injured or worse by one of these gangs, if you want to help workers who sell age restricted products then let us have an open and honest debate about these Romanian Crime Gangs instead of sweeping it under the carpet because of political correctness. These same gangs are reportedly pimping out their own children and are responsible for benefit fraud. The females of the gangs sell the Big Issue in order to get a N.I. number so they can claim in work benefits, we must be the laughing stock of the world.

It is even getting to the stage that on my day off I will head into Perth and I've witnessed the same gangs 'working' and I've had them stopped by the police but again until they pass the last point of purchase no crime has been committed so no action can be taken.