

# 77701718

## 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".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

-

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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**

Many people in this sector work in shops without security guards due to costs and are vulnerable to abuse without any protection. Those who wish to insult degrade and abuse others for self gratification should feel the full force of the law as I for one would rather not have a country that every retailer would feel the need to employ a guard.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am not sure of the difference.

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**

As seems to cover all potential aspects a retailer may incur while prohibiting a sale.

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.**

Education - that is not to say it is all down to schools. Education via social media, traditional media and this could be backed up by a school input. However the responsibility of the parent should also be highlighted.

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** - Some reduction in cost

**Q5.2. (b) Businesses** - Some reduction in cost

**Q5.3. (c) Individuals** - Unsure

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

Govt cost - if prevention of abuse is gained then there would be less police, court (children's reporter) and custodial cost to the state.

Business - victims should be reimbursed for costs ie being closed for business while giving a statement or being a witness by the perpetrators. However once the message is out there that abuse equals consequences hopefully there would be less cases of abuse.

Individual I am not sure if this is the victims or other shop uses either way there should be no increase in cost.

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

No

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

There would be a cost to educate people however this would hopefully be off set by the saving of police etc costs.

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 responses.**

Even when someone is doing something they know is not right there are not many who like to be told no - especially when dealing with young offenders. However the bill may curtail their reaction for fear of the consequences.

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

Don't focus on the equality focus on the collective.

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 responses.**

With a strong campaign and subtle reminders this this Bill could promote positive Citizenship.

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?

*Support for retailers who say no to already drunk customers demanding more alcohol.*

*Support for retailers who confront shop lifters.*

*However retailers also have their responsibilities and should be held accountable when they falter.*

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)	Yes
Working in premises selling alcohol for consumption off the premises (e.g. shop)	Yes
Working in premises selling other age-restricted products (e.g. tobacco, knives etc.)	No
Working in other retail premises	Yes
None of the above	No

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	Yes
I have been the victim of verbal abuse	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse	Yes
None of the above	No

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)

I have witnessed my security guard being attacked which I had to step in and help fight off the perpetrators who were trying to steal goods and turned aggressive when challenged. This had to be referred to the police. The perpetrators were never found and the guard was off work for several months.

I have been verbally abused when I challenged an already drunk lady that the cashier would not serve her and she was right to refuse. This had to be referred to the police as the lady then got into a car to drive away.





