

77744510

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

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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

This seems obvious to me - assault is an offence in any context. However, because retail workers are exposed to the public more than other workers and may have to deal with all kinds of people and situations, it makes sense to have particular legislation protecting them which they are then aware of and can, if necessary, point out to anyone threatening them.

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'm not sure what the difference between the first two is so can't choose between them.

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

I don't know enough about what difference this will make in practice so can't choose very clearly.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I don't know enough about existing legislation which could be used to protect retail workers.

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 - Broadly cost neutral

Q5.2. (b) Businesses - Broadly cost neutral

Q5.3. (c) Individuals - Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

Answers above are just v. rough guesses - I don't feel I know enough about the practicalities to judge such impacts and I'm not sure which actual individuals you have in mind - workers or offenders or both?

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

As before!

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.

Various reasons - these groups may particularly appreciate having a law which gives them explicit and particular protection in any difficult situations they may face in dealing with the public.

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

I can't envisage it having any significant negative impacts.

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.

See previous answer.

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?

Could it be usefully extended to other workers who have to interact in potentially difficult situations with the public e.g. parking wardens, ticket collectors on trains etc? Maybe it's best to keep it specific to retail because of age restrictions etc there.

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)
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No

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

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

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)

Can't think of any that's relevant here.

