

# 77671030

## 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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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?

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I am interested in why this campaign refers only to retail

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

A new statutory offence

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

If there is a need for a specific offence then this should be stipulated rather than having an existing offence aggravated

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 offence (for all these types of behaviour)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It has to be made clear to potential offenders what is against the law

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.**

Existing health and safety laws are designed to protect workers but local authority enforcement has declined over a long period now

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** - Broadly cost neutral

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

Enforcement costs per head of population are very low. For business this is a profitable area

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 responses.**

The promoters of the bill should make enquiries about the costs of enforcement and balance this against the profits of the industry and the cost to society such as the NHS

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?

Positive

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

All protected categories will have greater protections

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

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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.**

As before. Has work been done on this?

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?

*The front line staff enforcing the proposed law*

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)	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	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	No
I have been the victim of verbal abuse	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence	No
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse	No
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 many years experience as a law enforcement officer namely environmental health and have a special interest in the cost and benefits of protective work





