

77660188 - Keith Stoddart

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Keith Stoddart

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

Casual abuse and the incidence of actual abuse is rising and needs to be addressed. This bill will assist in addressing this both by highlighting the issue and also showing perpetrators that there are consequences to their actions.

Workers don't go to wo

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

This offence has to be seen to warrant the most serious of consequences.

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 previously

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 of the impact these "offences" through advertising and social media

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 increase in cost

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

Q5.3. (c) Individuals - Broadly cost neutral

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

cost of judicial processes , advertising etc for Gov bodies but beyond that I cant see where costs would rise

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.

think legal process and education is way forward and these will have a cost implication

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.

it will further enhance their position

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

don't see any negatives other than for abusers

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.

think if folk have to think before they act then that's a good thing and fail to see any costs for business or damage to the environment

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?

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Q11. Which of the following describes your retail-sector experience (please tick all that apply)?

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|---|-----|
| 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 | 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 | 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)

Many years ago when working in pubs/off sales I would regularly be verbally abused for refusing to serve what I perceived to be underage drinkers, where colleagues were from ethnic minorities this frequently became racial in nature.

