

80279452

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?

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

The Tobacco Retailers' Alliance

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?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

TRA members are entrepreneurs whose businesses serve local communities across Scotland and the threat of violence in their shops is unacceptable. Assaults on workers are deeply damaging on a personal

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

level and scare customers and other staff. This has knock on effects on trade and so if small retailers are to stay in business and continue to serve the community, they must be protected with tough sanctions.

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

To reduce the risk of assault, a new statutory offence which had a sufficient level of punishment associated with it is needed. This would safeguard honest retailers who refuse to serve under-age people, this is in comparison to those selling illegal tobacco who don't ask for ID. Information about this new offence could be displayed in small shops and would act as a deterrent to aggressive customers. It would also demonstrate that the Scottish Government is taking this matter seriously.

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

Same as previous question

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.

Threats and violence towards small retailers often happens because people want to steal high cost items like tobacco products. This is caused by the UK Government's many rises in tobacco taxes and regulations which lead to higher costs for retailers and price rises for customers in small retailers. While the Scottish Government cannot reduce national taxes and regulations, it should not add to the burden with further regional rules on tobacco retailers which would exacerbate this situation. It should also not consider introducing its own fiscal mechanisms that would increase the cost of tobacco.

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.

Stronger deterrents around violence towards shop keepers should see a decline in such instances, acting as a strong deterrent, that would then have a saving to the public purse by reducing costs and time incurred by the criminal justice system and police in dealing with such matters. For individuals and shops we do not think this will have a significant financial impact.

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

Unsure

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

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

No Response

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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Deterring crime and will strengthen and protect small retailers who play a vital role in providing local

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?

neighbourhoods with goods and act as a focal point for engagement and community spirit. This will be good socially and economically.

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?

No Response

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 other age-restricted products (e.g. tobacco, knives etc.)

Q12. Which of the following describes your experience of violence or verbal abuse in the retail sector (please tick all that apply)?

No Response

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)

No Response