

77773551 - Seonaidh Morton

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Seonaidh Morton

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Is this not already adequately covered under various laws relating to assault and battery? Not quite sure why a specific law relating to retail staff is needed: rather, is it not more a matter of lack of enforcement of present laws?

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

A new statutory aggravation

Please explain the reasons for your response

This might be more appropriate than a new offence, I feel. It would enable such an aggravation to be considered for breaching present laws.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I'm pretty sure abusive behaviour and harassment are already recognised aggravations.

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

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.

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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.

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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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

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

I don't think there would be a negative impact to minimise or avoid.

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.

I don't see such a measure as having any significant environmental impact

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?

I'm not quite sure why any group of workers (or, for that matter, non-workers) should be singled out in this way. Rather, I think what's needed is more general social education concerning why people have to check age qualifications and the like, together with a determination to enforce current laws against assault etc.

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.)	Yes
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)

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