

78851529 - Scottish Grocers' Federation

Proposed Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-Restricted Sales etc.) (Scotland) Bill

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".)
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Please select the category which best describes your organisation
<i>Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)</i>

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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
In our view, by far the better out come is a new statutory offence.

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 will be the most effective and impactful approach in terms of an effective deterrent changing the culture and increasing awareness of the seriousness of this issue making the police and the judicial system take this issue more seriously giving shop workers the confidence to fully enforce their mandatory duties and to report incidents of crime in-store.

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

Please response to question 2 but additionally this may help to capture a wider range of offences.

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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response.

SGF is of the view that Daniel's proposals provide the necessary legislative solutions.

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 -

Q5.2. (b) Businesses -

Q5.3. (c) Individuals -

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

N/A

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

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Please explain the reasons for your responses.

N/A

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?

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Please explain the reasons for your responses.

N/A

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

N/A

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?

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Please explain the reasons for your responses.

N/A

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?

N/A

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

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

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)

As the national trade association for the convenience store industry in Scotland, SGF recognises that in-store crime, remains a significant issue, with no real improvements in the overall picture. The SGF Crime Report survey showed that in 2017 alone, 99% of respondents experienced incidents of violence and physical abuse on a regular basis, with a staggering 100% of respondents having experienced shop theft and with 97% of respondents experiencing theft on a daily basis.

Retail crime is a crucial issue for the retail sector. SGF believe that Daniel's proposals represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make shops safer for staff, customers and communities. This is something everyone in Scotland should support.

