

79980567

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?

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

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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?

Partially opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am a worker in the retail sector, so I feel that I have experience relevant to the proposed legislation. I have experienced verbal abuse in the course of my job and witnessed others being verbally and physically abused. Despite this, I do not feel that new legislation is necessary to combat this type of abuse. This abuse is already covered under the common law, and I do not see the advantage of passing new legislation covering these offences.

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

Neither

Please explain the reasons for your response

As explained previously, I do not see the necessity of a new statutory offence. I also feel that there is no basis for a new statutory aggravation, which should be reserved for marginalised groups (e.g. ethnic minorities.)

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?

Neither

Please explain the reasons for your response

See above.

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.

I feel that better enforcement of current law and a change to sentencing guidelines is preferable to new legislation.

Page 11: Financial impact

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.

I don't expect most costs to change as they should be broadly in-line with the costs of the current common law. However, there may be some increase in costs as a result of the enforcement of tougher penalties (e.g. extended prison sentences.)

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

No

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Not to my knowledge, it's broadly cost-neutral anyway.

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I don't see how it has any impact on these groups, as offences against these groups are already punished (with aggravation) under existing legislation.

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

N/A.

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.

There should be no disproportionate costs beyond the social costs of harsher penalties. However, violent crimes deserve harsher penalties.

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?

If the bill was to pass I would like to see it cover all workers equally, age-restricted sales are only one trigger point for abuse. In my experience, random abuse, abuse resulting from the prevention of

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?

shoplifting, abuse from the ban on off-licence sales after 10 PM, and racial abuse are all more common than abuse resulting from age-restricted sales.

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 alcohol for consumption off the premises (e.g. shop)

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)?

I have been the victim of verbal abuse

I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence

I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse

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 witnessed racial and misogynistic verbal abuse of my colleagues, violent abuse of my colleagues in security and customers, and personally been threatened in the course of my employment.