

71971629

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

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

I own a shop with my wife and we were recently robbed by two armed masked men. A terrifying ordeal for the staff member involved and frightening and unsettling for us all. Knowing that the law would protect us better by ensuring strong penalties for anyone caught would help with our peace of mind, as we are now questioning whether we want to continue running the shop.

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

Either

Please explain the reasons for your response

Anything that helps to reduce confrontation due to workers upholding age restrictions would be welcome

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?

Either

Please explain the reasons for your response

As before

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

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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 reduction in cost

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

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

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

Any initial costs for additional prosecutions would likely be more than covered by a subsequent reduction in cost of similar crimes are reduced due to potential stiff penalties

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?

Positive

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?

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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.

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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 understand why the proposal seems to focus on age restricted sales, etc. However specific and increased penalties for threatening shop workers in the course of a robbery should be considered as a main part of any new legislation. There is currently an epidemic of armed robberies on small shops in our area (Lanarkshire) 3 men were arrested on Friday and have been charged in relation to the robbery in our shop and 3 other robberies over the last 3-4weeks. There have been at least another 3 armed robberies in a local village in the last few weeks. At a time where we are faced with huge increased costs due to living wage, pension contributions etc. losing money to robberies and the associated increased costs for security, insurance, etc. mean that we have to question whether it work keeping the shop open. I'm sure many other shops face a similar dilemma.

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	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	No
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse	No
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)

2 armed robbers entered our shop and threatened a lone female member of staff with iron bars before making off with cash and tobacco and cigarettes

