

72240038

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 have worked in retail for 10 years, from checkout operator and cashier to store manager and licence holder. I have been abused on a weekly basis often several times within a week and worse for me I have had staff badly shaken and end up with me in the witness box as a result of abuse from refusing sales of age restricted products.

It is high time the punishment of this sort of behaviour matched the punishment for not asking for ID.

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 issue must be challenged, as shop workers we have the legal responsibility to uphold the law but do not have the safeguards in place to do so effectively, assaulting a police officer is a different crime so why shouldn't assaulting a shop worker who refuses to sell something in order to uphold the law, after all we will end up with the criminal record if we fail to do so.

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

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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.

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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 - Significant reduction in cost

Q5.3. (c) Individuals - Significant reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

Crime would fall shortly after implementation. Shop workers would have less time off sick with stress and less strain on the health service for this.

The police and Fiscal would find they spent less time investigating these incidents as the perception of what was acceptable would soon change after the first few prosecutions. I have seen perfectly respectable customers turn when challenged on ARS.

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 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.

This sort of abuse is likely to take the shape of whichever insult comes easier to people, be it sexist or racist.

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

NO negative impact

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?

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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)	Yes
Working in premises selling other age-restricted products (e.g. tobacco, knives etc.)	Yes
Working in other retail premises	Yes
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	Yes
I have been the victim of verbal abuse	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to physical violence	Yes
I have witnessed colleagues being subjected to verbal abuse	Yes
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)

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