

16/03/2020

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 1463/1219

Michelle Ballantyne MSP
Convener
Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



Ian Thomson
Superintendent
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Dear Convener

Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee Protection of Workers Bill – Request for Supplementary Information.

I refer to your email dated 9 March 2020 requesting supplementary information following my recent attendance at the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee to give evidence on the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Bill.

In relation to each of the questions raised, I can provide the following information.

Additional information requested: Gillian Mawdsley indicated that there should be statistics on the number of convictions and prosecutions under the Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act 2005. Is this information that Police Scotland holds? (Daniel Johnson MSP indicated that the provisions in this Bill had been used over 8,000 times) (col 16 and 21)

Police Scotland does not hold information on the number of convictions and prosecutions under the Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act 2005. This information may be available through the Crown and Procurator Fiscals Service or the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service.

Additional information requested: Richard Lyle asked if changes to licensing laws (particularly being unable to buy alcohol before 10am and after 10pm) had impacted the number of reported shop incidents. Can any further information be provided?

Police Scotland, at this time do not routinely collate and report on incidents where a retail worker is the victim of a crime. Furthermore Police Scotland, do not routinely collate and report on incidents specific to retail premises.

As a result, it is not possible at this time to ascertain from data held by Police Scotland if changes to licensing laws, particularly being unable to buy alcohol before 10am and after 10pm, have impacted on the number of reported incidents taking place within retail shops.

Additional information requested: Dr Cheema (Scottish Grocers Federation) told the Committee about a notification scheme that the Co-op and Scotmid Co-operative have put in place with local police stations whereby the retailer fills out a form and delivers the audio and video evidence to the police station to speed up the reporting and investigation process. Do you have any information about how this is working from a policing perspective? (col26)

Police Scotland are currently trialling a process to support the reporting of retail crime under the Retail Resilience Evidence Package (RREP) Initiative. This is a localised pilot within certain areas of Scotland, allowing retail staff when thefts by shoplifting occur at identified retail premises, to prepare an evidence package to be provided to Police Scotland. This package includes details of the offence taking place along with pro-forma witness statements from staff members whilst providing any CCTV evidence that may be available. This allows the package to be made available to police when attending, from which the appropriate crime report can be created. In addition, some retailers have agreed to deliver CCTV evidence to the local police office.

It is anticipated that this process will support Retail workers whilst being of benefit when considering the local policing response. Police Scotland are currently engaging with the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, to consider the extent of any positive outcomes of this approach and whether or not it is appropriate for this process to be adopted nationally.

I hope the additional information provided meets the needs of the committee.

Yours sincerely

Ian Thomson

Ian Thomson
Superintendent