

ECONOMY, ENERGY AND FAIR WORK COMMITTEE**PROTECTION OF WORKERS (RETAIL AND AGE-RESTRICTED GOODS AND SERVICES) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

The individuals listed below all sent in identically worded responses with the following text.

1. What are your views on the Bill and what impact will it have?

I support the Protection of Workers (Retail and Age-restricted Goods and Services) (Scotland) Bill. I call upon the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee of the Scottish Parliament to support the Bill.

2. Having regard to existing offences (e.g. common law assault), is there a need for a new statutory offence of assaulting, threatening, abusing, obstructing or hindering a retail worker?

No one should experience violence, threats or abuse at their place of work. Retail workers should be free from fear at their place of work.

Politicians have rightly made decisions such as Minimum Unit Pricing or Challenge 25 which mean that retail workers are enforcing the law. Retail workers should be given the same protections as other law enforcement officers when they are enforcing the law. Some of the laws and regulations which have been made make the situation worse for retail workers and this is why there is a need for a new statutory offence.

3. What are the potential benefits or problems in having such an offence?

The potential benefit of the having such an offence is that it will act as a deterrent.

4. Should any new offence include all of the elements proposed in the Bill (e.g. should obstructing or hindering a retail worker be a crime, as is already the case in relation to various providers of emergency services)?

Yes, the new offence should include all the elements proposed in the Bill such as obstructing a retail worker.

5. Is the focus on retail workers appropriate (e.g. is it too narrow in not covering other workers who may, because of their work, be vulnerable to abusive behaviour)?

The focus on retail workers is appropriate. The shopworkers union USDAW has made clear that retail workers are more and more becoming victims of violence, threats and abuse.

6. What difference will the proposed aggravation, where the enforcement of a statutory age restriction is involved, make?

Scottish politicians have rightly made a focus on applying age restrictions on the sale of alcohol a priority. Whilst politicians sit at home it is retail workers who are on the front line of this asking for proof of age and being on the receiving end of violence, threats and abuse. I believe that this proposed aggravation would serve as a deterrent.

7. What are the financial implications of the proposals?

8. What other action is or should be taken to protect retail and other workers?

9. Are there any other aspects of the Bill you would like to comment on?

Richard McCready
Colin Yorkston
Bob Thomson
Alexandra Williamson
Lynn Thomson
Douglas Pearce
Isla Kidd
Iain Flett
Jean Hession
Alison Dowling
Kenneth Brown
Christopher Warwick
Denise Taylor
Chris Dames
Kenny Scobie
Cara Hilton
Chris Dames
Keiran O'Neill
Brian Murphy
Billy McAndrew
Celia Rosie
Ian Miller
Laura Pearce
Johann Lamont MSP
Neil MacDonald
John Erskine

James Graham
Pauline Sutherland
Philip Watson
Joan Griffiths
Ian Peattie
Martin MacLennan
Richard McCready
Russell Imrie
Stuart Tooley
Maggie McTernan
Kelly Drummond
Russell Imrie
John Taylor
Iain Flett
Callum McNally
Nahid Aslam
George MacDonald
Andrew Bell
Maureen Pollock
Alistair Hamilton
Tom Flanagan
Patricia Duncan
Christopher Warwick
Ian Williams

Laurie Bidwell
Bernard Singleton
Charles Sim
Ian Watson
Kathleen Dalyell
Ian Miller
William Young
Harry Cairney
Nicolas Wilson
Duncan Hothersall
Ronnie Scott
Martin Murray
Pauline Rourke
John McGarrachan
Colin Yorkston
Cllr Alan Lafferty
Johnney Rhodes
Bob Thomson
Ben Procter
Fiona O'Donnell
Kevin Robertson