

Proposed Right to Food (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to incorporate the human right to food into Scots Law The consultation runs from 24 June to 15 September 2020. All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer. All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded. Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here: Consultation document Privacy Notice

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

Our organisation is a community foodbank that has been in operation since 2013. It is at the frontline in responding to food insecurity in our area. The response was developed by 2 office bearers, and approved by our board.

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. (Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Kirkcaldy Foodbank

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

Aim and approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view on enshrining the human right to food into Scots law?

Fully supportive

Q2. Which of the following best describes your view on the creation of an independent statutory body with responsibility for the right to food?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response

We can see the benefit of having an independent body seeking to ensure the right to food is effective. However, we are concerned that the money involved in funding such a body would be better spent providing assistance to families to enable them to buy the food they need.

Q3. What do you think would be the main practical advantages and disadvantages of the proposed Bill?

An advantage would be to have the Right to Food enshrined in Scottish law. One disadvantage may be whether it was flexible to react to local situations.

Q4. Which of the following expresses your view of enshrining a right to food into Scots law as a priority in advance of any further Scottish Government legislation on wider human rights?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Q5. What advantages or disadvantages would there be to establishing a statutory body with responsibility for the right to food?

See the answer to question 2.

Q6. Which of the following best describes your view of placing responsibility for guaranteeing the right to food on the Scottish Government?

Fully supportive

Q7. What impact do you believe bringing the right to food into law would have on:

	Significant impact	Some impact	No impact
(a) Reducing food insecurity		X	
(b) Improving people's health		X	
(c) Workers in the food sector			

Please explain the reasons for your response

By emphasising the basic right to food, we are hopeful it will have a practical effect in reducing food insecurity. Given the connections between reducing inequality and improving health, we are also hopeful it will have a consequent impact on people's health.

However, we are also realistic enough to not expect this one legal measure to have a significant impact.

Financial Implications

Q8. 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

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

nothing to comment

Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Unsure

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

nothing to comment

Sustainability

Q12. 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

General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

As a Foodbank we are at the frontline of taking practical action to reduce food insecurity in our community. We consider it unacceptable that in 21st century Scotland anyone has to rely on charity to get the food they need to live. We long for the day when our Foodbank can close its doors as we are no longer required.

As a result, we welcome initiatives such as this bill to give priority at a national level to addressing food insecurity. The right to food is such a basic human right – if someone does not have the food to live, what value are the other rights we hear so much about? Although we are unsure of how the right will work in practice, we welcome it becoming enshrined in Scots law and so being given the prominence it deserves. As members of the Independent Food Aid Network we are supportive of the Network's Cash First Project aimed at improving access to cash-based options for those experiencing food insecurity.