

# 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.

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

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

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).

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Scotland must save its reputation as a forward thinking and fair society by doing all it can to provide a healthy diet for ALL its citizens. This body must be given the powers and support to ensure that this happens ASAP.

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

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

This body is long overdue. We have lived through 10 years of austerity causing huge suffering and inability to feed ourselves and we are seeing the enormous health implications of poor diet in huge numbers of our population. There is no time to lose in establishing this body and righting the wrongs that have been inflicted upon the poorer in our society.

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

There would be a focussed effort to feed our citizens adequately, improve the quality of food and eliminate bad food production, animal welfare and environmental practices. A society is judged on how well it looks after its most vulnerable and the proposed Bill is a good start to creating a new, fairer and better Scotland.

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?

Fully supportive

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?

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

A government which does not ensure universal access to a healthy diet is failing to look after it's citizens. Only after the population is feed properly can we be expected to reach our full potential and tackling the many other huge problems we face, not least climate change.

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

In the present and forthcoming enormous health and economic crisis, there must be an independent body focussed on ensuring that no-one within the care of our government has insufficient food. The advantage is that starvation and malnutrition in our wealthy country could be confined to history books and we could move on to a fairer, kinder world in which efforts are concentrated on tackling climate chaos, with EVERYONE able to play their part. Those struggling to feed themselves can hardly be expected to engage fully in saving our planet!

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

Fully supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I want our elected representatives to be able to sleep easily in their beds. It is immoral and un-christian not to do everything in one's power to ensure that everyone has access to enough wholesome food.

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**

People are having to chose between feeding themselves or their children. Malnutrition is widespread. The impact on mental and physical health of a family having enough affordable, nutritious food, for everyone, on the table would be huge.

## 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	

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Eliminating bad food production practices is likely to have some additional costs, offset by the benefits to the wider population and taking the cost off NHS services.

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

The bill should actively promote local food growing, reducing transport costs and the need for farming subsidies and re-connecting people with nature and where their food comes from. We should levy taxes on imported foods which can be successfully grown in this country and subsidise set-up costs for new sustainable food enterprises, especially organic food production.

## 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?

Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Vulnerable groups will benefit disproportionately, improving the lives of women who largely bear the burden of providing healthy food for their children and all disadvantaged groups who tend to be most economically challenged.

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

Some of the savings made in the cost of NHS services could be used to offset any increases in the cost of food production.

## 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

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

The health benefits of eliminating malnutrition throughout society will reduce healthcare costs dramatically, thus relieving NHS financial costs enormously, through tackling obesity, diabetes, stress, mental health etc. Ensuring that we all have a healthy diet will make people feel valued, cared for and empowered to contribute to creating a better society- motivated to reach their potential. It is a No Brainer!

## General

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

The aim of this bill must be to promote equality and eliminate poverty, thus ensuring everyone has access to nutritional food. Scotland should also have a focus on using our expertise to eliminate food poverty and starvation throughout the world.