

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".)

Member of the public

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

I have been growing food in community settings for the last 12 years.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

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).

Lisa Houston

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.

It should be a basic foundation of any nation, that there is a human right to food, and with a guarantee that nowhere in the food chain are there any human rights abuses, which would include the protection of the climate

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

It needs to be enshrined and protected, without the corporate lobby being able to oversee and influence decisions made

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

That we take a serious look at food poverty in Scotland and develop strategies to address it properly, in ways that respect the dignity of all, people and environment. We need to look at our own food poverty and ensure that the solutions do not then cause any negative impacts at the global level. Eg moving away from cheap imports etc

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I suppose a fear that wider human rights will take a long time. I would hope to see the Right to Food strongly influencing other human rights legislation, if it properly address the human and environmental impacts of the right to food

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

Important to make sure the government is held accountable to implementation of the right to food

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 to see a thriving local food economy, with healthy people and healthy locally grown and produced food. I want to see Scotland developing innovative and local solutions to addressing the nutrition and deprivation issues that moves away from food bank dependency and has legislation for supermarkets to be made more accountable for their food waste which is what is often used in food banks. Charities end up putting lots of work into the redistribution of supermarket waste.

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

The Right to Food would mean that the government would need to work to have clear strategies for addressing the above

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

There will need to be initial investment in the solutions by government. And as stated earlier, businesses will need to be involved in improving their operations to be more responsible, to source local, to reduce waste, to work towards the goal of the right to food, but giving the alarming increase in poverty in Scotland, this needs to be done in a way that makes food more affordable and more accessible, with a local food supply chain.

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

By investing in local food producers and growers who can work towards the long term solution of increasing the amount of food in Scotland that is consumed in Scotland. By taxing supermarkets for their food waste.

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.

Race, gender, and disability are all significant factors in terms of determining access to work, and therefore the money needed for health and well-being. A right to food, where people are no longer fearful of how to feed their families, should be as inclusive as possible and work to raise the living standards of everyone, especially any marginalised groups

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

By ensuring there is representation of minority groups at all levels of the decision making and design process for any strategies and their implementation

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.

By focussing in on ethical and environmentally sound food production. By working with local fishing and farming communities, to develop food production that better addresses local needs. By having a farm attached to every city. By supporting the local food industry

General

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

No Response