

# 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

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).

Eileen Hamill

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.**

Food is a basic human right and we are heading for a crippling economic depression. No one should have to go hungry. A woman starved to death in Glasgow a few weeks ago that should never be allowed to happen again

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**

The body should not be dependent on the Government of the day it should be enshrined in law and continue to run independently

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

Food security for all and the knowledge that children will not go to bed hungry and adults will not have to sacrifice their food to feed the children

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.**

We cannot call ourselves a progressive society while accepting food poverty. I volunteer at a Foodbank and see hungry people every week withough goodwill and charity these people will literally starve

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

Food for all, reduced stigma and anxiety around food poverty

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.**

Our government should look after our people. There are mass redundancies coming and it will bring food poverty to a larger group perhaps people who would never have needed support before. it is to big a talk to leave to goodwill and charity

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**

Can you imagine the stress of not being able to feed your children or yourself? The impact of poor/malnutrition on children in our communities is huge we need to end the stigma of holiday hunger and the working poor. People cannot afford nutritious food it should be provided to those who need it. Food is a right not a luxury

## 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**

Swings and roundabouts what we spend extra on feeding our people we save on health care for badly nourished people. Those who can afford pay a bit more tax businesses will still get paid but in some part by the government

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

Bulk buying power and I'm sure that there were lessons learned in the shielding parcels distributed throughout the COVID Lockdown. Millions of tons of perfectly good food is wasted so there should be a distribution method to divert this food from landfill and get it out to hungry people. Something like the Fairshare charity but on a much larger scale

## 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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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

Hungry people are hungry people protected characteristics or not. Reducing stigma and making food a right will improve food equity and access to food for all

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

I'm not sure about this one as there will always be selfish people who will be unwilling to help others. We need to be brave and risk upsetting them for the greater good. Scotland could be a progressing nation looking after her people and not bowing to the complaints of the few with their I'm alright jack attitudes

## 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?

No

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

There would be large initial startup costs but over time savings from the health budget could be repurposed to food provision. Perhaps a bit more on taxes on a sliding scale depending on income. We cannot make changes by doing the same as we have always done. This is a radical policy and it needs radical solutions

## General

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

I think it is a great idea but if this bill is not passed a Universal basic Income would also go a long way to feeding our people. Another progressive policy for a progressive nation. We have the opportunity to make things better for our people. We cannot sit back and watch people starve to death in a modern and progressive country which is what we purport to be