

# Right to Food (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to incorporate the right to food into Scots law.

The consultation runs from 25 November 2021 to 16 February 2022.

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. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard 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 which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

*No Response*

## 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

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

I'm an engineer working on hardware design for agriculture.

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 Full 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).

Billy Smith

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 - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").**

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to incorporate the right to food into Scots law?

Fully supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to incorporate the right to food into Scots law?

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

Having human rights without the right to have food to eat, means that we will not be able to exercise our human rights because we are starving.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Yes, legislation IS required.

As a species, we have had the technical capabilities to feed, to clothe, to house, to educate, and, to provide medical/social care for everyone on the planet since the 1850's.

Even though our population levels have grown, so too have our technical capabilities, but it is still not being done.

What has been lacking is the political will to do so.

Having these rights enshrined in law, is one of the necessary steps towards resolving the mismatch between what we are capable of doing, and, what is being done.

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view on an independent statutory body being given responsibility for overseeing and reporting on progress towards realising the right to food?

Fully supportive

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

Independent Statutory Bodies are the main way that we can operate successfully in the longer term, so it doesn't become sidetracked by the short-term politics.

It reduces the potential for partisanship behaviour.

These rights transcend party politics, so they need a Statutory Body to make sure that party politics does not damage them.

Q4. Should an independent body be given responsibility for overseeing and reporting on the right to food, do you think it should be:

Either option

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

Either option would be good, as long as the administering Statutory Body is fully independent of the political process.

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of enshrining a right to food into Scots law as a priority in advance of, and in a manner which is compatible with, any further Scottish Government legislation on wider human rights?

Fully supportive

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

The right to food, is the same as the right to clean air, and, the right to potable water.

Our potential rights will expand, as our technological capabilities move forward.

It is a necessary step, but we will have to take that step, along with all of the others. :D

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

Fully supportive

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

Guaranteeing our human rights is one of the basic functions of government.

## Covid-19 Pandemic

Q7. What impact do you consider the effects of, and response to, the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the need for a right to food to be incorporated into Scots law?

Increased the need for the Bill

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

The inequalities that have been exposed through the stress test that Covid has placed on our social infrastructure, means that there is an increased need for this legislation.

## Financial Implications

Q8. Taking into account all those likely to be affected (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc), is the proposed Bill likely to lead to:

no overall change in costs

**Please indicate where you would expect the impact identified to fall (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc). You may also wish to suggest ways in which the aims of the Bill could be delivered more cost-effectively.**

As i work on engineering, i am fully aware of what is technologically possible, but is not being done.

There are existing technologies that can increase our crop yields by 200% whilst using 50% of the soil, and 20% of the water, without damaging the ecology and diversity of our planet.

Q8. Taking into account all those likely to be affected (including public sector bodies, businesses and individuals etc), is the proposed Bill likely to lead to:

When talking with other engineers about, i find that when i use the phrase, "without damaging the biological infrastructures that our species needs for long-term survival", they suddenly understand why i am emphasising this. Describing it as a problem of provision of infrastructure, and it makes sense to them. :D

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If it is run effectively, it should be generating an energy surplus, which can then be channelled back into our future development.

I've run the numbers, and we CAN do this.

We can have a civilised planet, with a literate, educated, happy, healthy population, whilst continuing to have a healthy genetic diversity in our ecology that we need for our future.

Then we can stop arguing over who gets the largest slice of an ever-shrinking pie, and go build the infrastructure that will take us to the stars.

There is an infinite amount of energy out there, if we but reach out to use it. :D

## Equalities

Q9. 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. Where any negative impacts are identified, you may also wish to suggest ways in which these could be minimised or avoided.**

The Right to Food does not conflict with any of our other Human Rights.

In fact it enables them, as it is difficult to care about Human Rights when you are starving.

## Sustainability

Q10. In terms of assessing the proposed Bill's potential impact on sustainable development, you may wish to consider how it relates to the following principles:

- living within environmental limits
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting effective, participative systems of governance
- ensuring policy is developed on the basis of strong scientific evidence.

With these principles in mind, do you consider that the Bill can be delivered sustainably?

Yes

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- living within environmental limits
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- promoting effective, participative systems of governance
- ensuring policy is developed on the basis of strong scientific evidence.

With these principles in mind, do you consider that the Bill can be delivered sustainably?

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

Yes, this bill can be delivered sustainably, as we already have the technological capabilities to do so.

## General

Q11. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

Right now, i don't have much to say, but maybe after i've had some coffee... :D

If you have any future questions relating to this, i will be happy to take part.

Please don't hesitate to contact me in future. :D