

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.

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)

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).

Scottish Community Safety Network

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?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The right to food is a human right and food needs to be accessible for all, in addition to being nutritious and culturally appropriate. However, the bill needs to go further and think about how food sourced is sustainable and has a positive impact on the environment, as well as considering packaging of food products (i.e. reusable / recyclable). The right to food bill is an opportunity to build into climate change and

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environmental policy however this seems to have been missed. In addition, what about the 'right to grow food'? Instead of focusing exclusively on providing for the population, why can't the bill empower the population to grow their own food too, whether that be at home, on rooftops, in allotments? This would shift the paternalistic narrative of 'providing' and 'feeding' into education and self-sufficiency.

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.

I think wider community engagement needs to happen before any decisions are made, in particular focusing on suitability of food and growing. This would help set the scene for long term changes in production and consumption of food.

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?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Yes, everyone needs a right to food. However, the bill could go much further in terms of empowering people and supporting the environment too.

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.

Unsure at this moment in time.

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?

Partially supportive

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I believe that it is the government's responsibility to make sure that its population is fed, and that food is nutritious, accessible and responsibly sourced. The problem then is, if people then were without food (due to whatever reason), then what mechanisms are there to enable them to effectively challenge the Scottish Government and seek compensation? People who are hungry, stressed and let down by the system are

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

very unlikely to have the time and resources to commit to a process of holding government to account, whether that be through the courts or another process.

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.

It goes without saying the pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and that something needs to be done about this, especially addressing the root causes of food inequality including poverty and trauma.

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:

some increase 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.

There is already a huge surplus of food in our society. If the plans are robust and have buy in from large and small food retailers and growers, then there shouldn't be a huge cost. Avoid paying high salaries for new posts that do little. This is where costs could spiral.

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?

Slightly 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.

Hard to say. If done correctly it will have positive impact on the above. People from minority groups are more likely to be affected by poverty and so food poverty too and so it is important to engage people from start to finish to make sure policy responses are fit for purpose.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I believe it can. However, it needs to be a priority. Climate change and sustainable growing is barely mentioned in the bill. Following COP26 in Glasgow, this bill needs to collaborate with key departments, charities and organisations across Scotland that for work exclusively in sustainable food production and the circular economy and are forward thinking in this area. These people and organisations need to sit at decision making tables and lead on this aspect of work.

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)?

No Response