

# 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".)

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 experienced poverty, and the effects of going hungry, without food. I've also worked with a food charity, and seen how much supermarkets would send to landfill if it wasn't that the charity collects and distributes. When I was a child, school meals were healthy and nutritious, this seems to have been lost.

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

**If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):**

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).

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

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

People should have a right to food, also to be able to eat healthily. Minority groups that are not named in the consultation should also include people who are homeless, the majority of homeless people are men. I would prefer that rather than having special groups, that any legislation would include all residents.

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.

Legislation is required, but I think it should be kept as simple as possible. I would like to see it applied to all residents. I notice the proposal singles out special groups, whereas, I would prefer to see legislation applied to all. Lone fathers being as important as lone mothers. Homeless people are predominantly men and already suffer much degradation. Children and elderly alike should have access to healthy food. Legislation would help as obviously at this present time, some people are going hungry, or experiencing some form of food scarcity.

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.**

I wouldn't want to see an independent statutory body becoming over bureaucratic. Yet, I do see the need for this to be set-up, rather I would hope it would be made up of existing charities, both nationally and locally. Many of the smaller local groups should also be included, having provided an excellent service in their areas. If it is solely in the hands of political ministers, it has a tendency to no longer keep the original intent in mind, whereas the grass-roots organisations usually have first-hand knowledge of the issues.

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

A newly created body

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

Existing charities, including smaller, locally based charities. People with knowledge of all angles of health and diet, food distribution, etc. If there are existing bodies available, their knowledge could be equally valuable.

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 knock-on effects of not having access to food is vast. The effect on children's long-term health.

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?

Mental-health issues. Why do we still have homelessness, and they go hungry? - Side-tracking... Children going to school hungry. Obesity or/and malnutrition. On a basic human rights issue, it is obvious, we require food, on a financial level, it saves money in the long-run, a health population functions better.

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.**

The Government has the power and money to be able to implement what is required for the benefit and health of the citizens. Although I don't want them interfering with an independent statutory body. Again, this should be made-up of existing charities and grass-root groups.

## 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 Governments failed in their duties to people. Grass-root organisations sprang up in most areas, providing food services for those who were unable to go to shops, the elderly. It was neighbours, groups who were making sure elderly people were receiving food. Delivery drivers were full-on. Neighbours making sure those without transport were able to access food. Basically, the 'common' people coming to the aid of others. Countless examples of strangers, or communities rallying to make sure that people within their community weren't going without. This was a community spirit and action, not a political, ministerial one. Yes, people need more rights, including the right to food.

## 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.**

Perhaps I don't understand the question. Wouldn't some of this just entail a 'return to basics'. We used to have healthy, nutritious food at school meals. Food industry could re-look at their ingredients, and stop false advertising. A basic 'healthy diet' list circulated. 'Grow your own' initiatives. Why does it have to be more expensive? We just slowly change some of what we're doing, and replace this with healthier options

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:

- without punishing extremes, as is sometimes the case, i.e. if children do want to go to local shops for snacks, that's fine, as long as they are otherwise eating healthily. This doesn't have to be a massively expensive, bureaucratic exercise, we already know what is healthy.

## 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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

**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.**

I just think it should be equally legislated for all citizens.

## 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.**

The system we have at the moment doesn't tick all the above boxes anyway. Supermarkets throw away vast amounts of food daily, this food is often collected by charities, grass-root groups and distributed to others. Wouldn't some of the legislation just be a case of improving upon some of the systems we already have in place. Why make it difficult?

## 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)?

I don't feel this needs to be complicated. Quite simply, the health of the nation concerns all. People shouldn't be going hungry. We already have decent systems set-up, these need looked at on occasion to see what improvements are required.