

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

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).

Maureen Macmillan

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.

Too many families are having to choose between eating and heating. Parents go without to protect the

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

children. Even then, in the midst of plenty, children go hungry. I remember rationing post war. That may not be the answer today, but governments must take some responsibility for peoples basic needs.

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, it is the only way to hold governments to account and to properly monitor development and progress, check KPIs etc

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.

You need a powerful, independent body to face up to any government which might seek to circumvent the intentions of the legislation, and should contain representatives of those at risk of food poverty as well as representatives of food producers, retailers, nutritionists etc

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.

Need a body committed solely to this task, because it is a hugely important undertaking and deserves proper attention. It will need to investigate our whole food system and the barriers that prevent people access affordable, nutritious food - that would also include access to power/fuel for cooking and education in basic nutrition. Schools have attempted this in the past (and encouraged vegetable growing in school grounds), but young families need support here, too. There are many sectors needing to be brought together, from local government to energy companies, to farmers and supermarket giants. You need a totally focused single purpose body to do this.

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.

I think this matter is now urgent. Pressures on ordinary families to feed themselves and keep warm are increasing. Older people reliant on the state pension are also at risk, as are people with disabilities.

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.

Charities and food banks are struggling to support all who need their help. We need to examine farming practices, retail practices, and because food needs to be cooked, we need to look at access to fuel/energy. Education also plays a part in people knowing what food is nutritious .

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 pandemic has exposed the vulnerability of a significant proportion of our population and has disrupted employment and food production. It has stressed many people almost beyond endurance. Rising prices will exacerbate this. If affordable, nutritious food is not available plus the means of cooking it, then over time it will impact profoundly on people's health. Poor diet is already a problem in Scotland . This can only be dealt with at government level, and ideally by local, Scottish, and UK governments working together.

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.

The costs will mainly fall on government, though some may be absorbed by other sectors, but this is a long term investment in the wellbeing of our citizens which in the end will ensure a much healthier population and less money will be needed to deal with the consequences of poor nutrition and poor health

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

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?

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.

At the moment, the people suffering the consequences of food poverty are often those suffering other inequalities, whether of age, disability, geography or income. The right to food would be of particular help to them

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.

No reason to believe it couldn't be delivered sustainably and indeed would give us an opportunity to look closely at the food supply chain.

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)?

Would like to see family centres set up in communities to help (amongst other things) families learn about food, nutrition and cooking, even to allowing people to cook food on the premises to take home. There were some excellent examples in the past but long since gone