

# 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 am currently in teacher training for Home Economics and have many years in the food industry. Most recently I managed a community food group dealing with all sorts of food system issues including food poverty.

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).

Karen Dorrat

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.**

It is already within human rights law and incorporating it into Scottish law will only protect Scottish citizens further. I see no reason why it should not be.

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.

It has already had an opportunity to be enacted voluntarily but it is currently a very broken system with many people falling through the cracks and unable to feed themselves or their families. Therefore this needs to be taken to the next level and protected by law.

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.**

Expertise from a range of people and groups who have worked in this area will be crucial to ensure whatever is created is workable and efficient and actually helps the most vulnerable. It must include those with lived experience and third sector workers who have on the ground experience of how it all plays out in real life. Only by being independent can this be protected from being influenced politically. There is opportunities here to include people from a wide range of relevant sectors giving a broad input from experts.

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.**

This is such a complex issue I believe we need to start with a fresh clean slate and rethink how we can protect peoples right to food. I cannot think on an existing body which would include a wide enough range of experts to feed into this strategy. It should include people from health, education, third sector, expert researchers, food businesses and financial / welfare teams.

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

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

Unsure

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

Not sure what this means, responsibility should be on the independent group and ultimately by Scottish govt as the overseers of that group and any associated legislation

## 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.**

Covid has exposed how difficult it is for individuals to access healthy, adequate and affordable food even prior to the pandemic. We only heard about the extent of these challenges when they were exacerbated by covid. Particular groups such as those with mental and physical health problems, children in families whose carers have mental or physical conditions, and those with no recourse to public funds were hit hardest and there has no doubt been plenty of evidence gathered throughout the pandemic to show this is the case and must be addressed urgently.

## 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 may be short term costs but long term benefits as ultimately this will enable more people to be active citizens, thriving and contributing to the economy rather than struggling day to day and often forgotten and dependent on welfare support.

## 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

## 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.**

These can work hand in hand by investment in local food economies and support for local growing projects, small food businesses, addressing issues of land use for growing, investing in community meals bringing people together to create better physical and mental health and well-being etc. By bringing the right to food into schools we will be investing in our young people and sharing the best of food education with them. This is crucial if we are to have a future workforce who can deal with challenges of climate change and a resilient food system. Teachers and education leaders must do more to put sustainability and food issues at the heart of the curriculum which will protect young people and their families both in the short and long term.

## 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*