

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

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

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).

Aberdeen City Council

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.

incorporating the right to food in legislation will underpin much of the good work which currently goes on to alleviate food insecurity, reduce the need for food banks and the improvement in food skills and knowledge

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

to help improve healthier eating. Legislation and oversight by an independent body affords the opportunity to develop a holistic approach with improved baseline data and clearly developed improvement outcomes.

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 will put in place a duty on organisations to ensure policies across the board have a positive impact on improving food security, working with partners at all levels in the the community.

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.

An independent body provides the opportunity for a holistic approach to tackling food insecurity, both in terms of immediate emergency provision (and mitigations against that) through to longer terms outcomes on improving food knowledge and skills to impact on health outcomes.

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.

Yes, I think and newly created body would provide a very strong message on commitment to alleviate food insecurity and ensure independence across a range of organisations currently engaged in related work. Resourcing will of course be consideration - not just for such a body, but the lack of robust baseline data at a local level constrains improvement activity, and this is impacted by the level of resource locally - both to oversee this work but also among the many community and third sector partners involved. such organisations are largely supported and funded to deliver support and services and often lack the capacity to develop and maintain robust management information, along with requirements for associated development work and reporting requirements.

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

While the right to food is part of wider human rights, and I support separate legislation, I don't have the information to know whether food insecurity is the 'largest' issue and should hence get priority.

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 Scottish Government are best placed to ensure overall progress against and compliance with the proposals for the right to food 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.

The work around support and crisis response during the pandemic demonstrates that food insecurity is a huge issue and current provision does not reach everyone in need. It is also clear that the support required at the increased level during the pandemic will be required in the longer term as other issues such as the emerging cost of living pressures take effect.

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.

I'd suggest there will be the need for local coordination and oversight, which is likely to lead to the requirement for dedicated resource. As mentioned above, the resource requirements among local partners and organisations delivering support will need to be considered, as well as work to establish baseline data and the means to report progress against that. One further area will be an increased need in food education, so the impact on currently very tight home economics budgets is one area to be considered: costs mean very basic ingredients can not be provided (eg diluting juice used in place of fresh orange in a fruit salad; pupils not having containers to take their food home, depriving them of the potential joy in making food, but also resulting in food waste).

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 will ensure that eg religious, health related dietary requirements can be adequately met and also ensure that women and families have dignified access to food: during the pandemic, it has been noted that much of the increase in recipients of food parcels were women, so the proposed bill provides an opportunity to ensure greater equality in the provision of services.

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 proposed Bill will allow a more holistic approach to food to be developed, an opportunity to improve efficiency across current arrangements and to improve outcomes on health and wellbeing.

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