

# 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:**

Experience of working within a health equalities and access (land, equipment, knowledge, skills etc.) agenda. Co-creating urban food hub (including growing + selling produce; cookery + nutrition activities); community gardener; volunteer support, management + co-ordination within urban food growing allotments and community gardens including regeneration and creation of urban sites.

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).

Tamara Hedderwick

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.**

A right to nutritious food is fundamental for a healthy, happy and creative lifestyle. Communities across Scotland should have equal access to fresh, locally produced food in economic, logistical and cultural terms.

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.

The Scottish Islands Bill protects the specific situation of these communities in relation to any new legislation and the commitment to an improvement plan - surely food security is common to the whole nation and could be treated in a similar manner.

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.**

Food is a fundamental need for all but responsibility departmentally fragmented across various public sectors. The commercial, private sector is in control, hence health inequalities and lack of nutritious food in shops. An independent statutory body, with the health and enjoyment of the public diet it's focus, would be very useful.

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

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

An independent body made up of representatives of existing, cross sector, knowledgeable and experienced organisations would be the most powerful - no point reinventing the wheel or negating the good work established organisations are doing!

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 had presumed it had already happened with the Good Food Nation Bill!

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 should be here to problem solve food insecurity and ill health due to poverty, (of money and awareness of how to eat healthy + happy on a low income), and consumerist / commercial food culture and should champion initiatives and take action to address these issues.

## 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.**

Access to nutritious, fresh food became less due to many reasons including diminished income; isolation; fear of busy places / public transport; lack of access to internet shopping; lack of access to allotments and community gardens. It also highlighted the need for a healthy immune system, supported by a healthy diet, exercise and time spent outdoors which are all benefits of locally produced 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:

don't know

**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.**

Depends whether the value of volunteer time or some sort of social / health impact accounting such as SROI is in the equation!

## 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.**

Everyone needs to access and enjoy healthy food and our government has a duty to ensure this is possible

## 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.**

- living within environmental limits - local food production addresses a lot of existing environmental challenges such as less food miles - we just have to be less demanding within our expectations in diet and become more experienced at being creative with what is available seasonally
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society - equal access to healthy food will create a strong enough society to be just
- achieving a sustainable economy - local production, with careful management of available resources, creates more sustainable diverse local economies (not just cash based)
- promoting effective, participative systems of governance - food is a common interest across the nation it could be a transparent and inclusive medium for participative governance - perhaps decisions should be made with a meal on a table rather than a lectern in a debating chamber!
- ensuring policy is developed on the basis of strong scientific evidence - considering food is a common need and health is a common desire for all of us, the science should be pretty straightforward!

## 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)?

We should be able to eat healthy and keep warm!