

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).

Francesca Brennan

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 Human Right to Food already exists in international human rights law
- People are still going hungry in Scotland

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

Nobody in Scotland should be without food but sadly we know this is the reality for too many people. Here in Inverclyde, where I live, we have adopted a number of measures to combat food poverty e.g. community fridges and pantries. The right to food is already enshrined in international human rights law but the Scottish and UK governments need to do more to ensure that we meet our responsibilities. The Second UN Sustainable Development Goal, 'zero hunger by 2030', applies in the UK and to achieve this we need action by Scottish and UK Governments. That's why I am delighted to support this proposal.

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, I think legislation is required. We know that hunger, food insecurity and food poverty still exist. During the pandemic I volunteered to deliver meals across Inverclyde because the pandemic showed that access to food is not fairly distributed with some people going hungry while others were stockpiling food.

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?

No Response

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.

Only a new body would provide the appropriate focus on the Right to Food and be able to hold the Scottish Government and other public bodies to account

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.

It's a scandal that in Scotland in 2022 people are still going without food, struggling to feed themselves and their families. There is no clear timescale for Scottish Government legislation on wider human rights so the issue of food poverty must be prioritised now.

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

Fully supportive

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Third sector interventions do a great job of mitigating the challenges of food poverty but more work needs to be done to get to the root cause and to focus on prevention. That is why I would like to move to placing responsibility for guaranteeing the right to food on the Scottish Government.

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.

Scotland is a relatively rich country yet food poverty affects far too many Scots. Covid-19 exposed faultlines within society and demonstrated the vulnerability that many Scots face around this issue.

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.

- Possibly increased costs due to more public spending to ensure the Right to Food
- Extra costs balanced by fewer costs on other parts of the public sector, for example, improved nutrition leading to fewer calls on NHS spending

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.

- Poverty and income inequality are main drivers for food poverty.
- Food poverty more likely to impact on BAME community

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?

- Issues around access to food for people with disabilities and mobility problems
- Issues around rural access to food

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

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)?

- Food is a human right
- Disgraceful people going hungry in Scotland in 2022
- Need to meet Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger by 2030 in Scotland as much as elsewhere in the world.
- The co-operative movement developed in the UK to make sure people had access to good quality, unadulterated food. Our work in the 21st century needs to ensure a Right to Food
- 81% of Scots support the Right to Food being enshrined in Scots Law according to polling carried out Yonder (Populus)