

# 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".)

Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)

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).

Councillor Kevin Keenan

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.**

The Right to Food should be incorporated into Scots Law. The Right to Food is a human right which

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

theoretically exists in international law but the level of food insecurity and food poverty in Scotland demonstrates that this is not effective. It is disgraceful that people are going hungry in Scotland in 2022.

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.

I think that legislation is required. The current situation does not prevent hunger in Scotland, food insecurity or food poverty. The pandemic has shown that access to food is not fairly distributed in Scotland. This has only shone a light on a situation which has been there for many years. |

The current situation does not work, this demonstrates the need for legislation.

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.**

There should be a statutory body. This body should ensure a holistic approach to the food system, this needs to look at issues like food insecurity, poverty and issues around the health impact of poor nutrition.

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.**

I think that there should be a new body which has a clear focus on the Right to Food. Such a body should look 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.**

The Scottish Government has mentioned the Right to Food at various times but not taken action. The families who are struggling to put food on their table cannot afford to wait for the Scottish Government to legislate. There is no clear timescale for any Scottish Government legislation. This proposal is one which will aim to make a difference and should be supported. There must now be a focus on the Right to Food and on eradicating food poverty 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

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

All levels of Government, UK, Scottish and local have a role to play, but I believe that in Scotland the focus for action should be with the Scottish Government. There have been some attempts to deal with the symptoms of the problem but enshrining the Right to Food in Scots Law would be a step change in making a real difference.

## 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.**

As a local councillor in Dundee the Covid-19 pandemic has made clear the need to deal with food insecurity. This was an issue that was clear prior to the pandemic but many more people have now come to recognise that far too many people in our society are going hungry.

## 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.**

I believe that this is the type of policy which the late Campbell Christie had in mind when he spoke about ensuring that we considered the whole public purse rather than each siloed budget heading individually. The Right to Food would add to costs in food provision or benefits but would also lead to cuts in health spending by improving overall 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.**

Food insecurity comes about as a result of inequality. Food poverty has a greater impact on disabled people and members of the BAME community. This is another reason to deal with this important policy area.

## 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.**

Providing a right to good quality, sustainably produced, nutritious and culturally sensitive food is more sustainable than the current system of food production and distribution. This should lead to a healthier population. There is also scope to improve the environment by reducing food waste and reducing food miles by having a joined up approach to food policy.

## 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)?

As a member of Dundee City Council I was very pleased when the council agreed to the Right to Food. This reflects the belief that people should not be going hungry in Scotland in 2022. I hope that the Scottish Parliament will support this important piece of legislation.