

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

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).

Hugh McGivern

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

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 do support the fact that everyone should have access to nutritious food at a reasonable cost. There has to be more control of how people who rely on benefits spend the monies given to them. Teaching Home Economics in schools is imperative for the younger generation to understand how we cook food within a budget. Food Banks must be better managed, perhaps supermarkets can become a single entity where they donate items at cost and sold at cost to the most needy.

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 impartial group of professionals must look at how food is given out and to whom. All the food is recorded. I would go as far as organising cookery lessons at local colleges in the evenings. Creating a system for the vulnerable must come with responsibilities to manage them as well. Contract caterers must have a bigger say in how much is needed to feed a child/adult student or a vulnerable adult. Checks on these people must also be regular to ensure what they are given is being used to it's potential and not squandered.

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.

A brand new impartial body of experts in accountability, nutritionists and chefs who have experience in budgeting meals that give maximum nutrition. Getting value for money to the people that need it most. There can't be any stigmas attached to Free Food but to make it en vogue as they become Ambassadors to their own cause.

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.

Food is a basic need and requirement irrespective of your circumstances. There has to be a body of like minded people that can organise, teach and supply this proportion of the population. Having the bigger food companies buy into this as a support mechanism. It has to be policed properly and advertised to encourage others to buy into this New Proposal. Local TV could be encouraged to create slots before national news times for 5 minute cookery slots. The potential to make a great success and self replicating is endless has to be paramount. Teaching recipients how to manage their food budget without a reliance on processed foods.

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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

The govt can only advise and promote this Bill. Any enforcement creates a section of those reliant on food supplements embittered. The buying in from celebrities, influencers and social media can be the secret to its success, but it must include the buy in from those most at risk.

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?

No significant impact

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think if anything the Pandemic gave people the time to improve their cooking abilities, making the most of what they have. We can use this as a stepping stone for peoples ideas. People love to have a position in life, a purpose and for those in most need this is a confidence booster for them to become Scottish Food Bill Ambassadors

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.

The monies that are available just need to be managed better with a new team of like minded individuals. Those companies that buy in must be given the credit. In areas of high dependency a Central Production Unit could be managed and encouraged to make a profit to offset some of the costs. Able bodied people can be encouraged to help out and learn from visiting/working at these CPU's A new website set up with an App to share ideas and costed recipes. Those that need this system must be honestly assessed to ensure the foods always go to those in need.

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

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 only impact will be from religious requirements, allergens and dietary needs. Irrespective who people identify as they all need nourishment. When someone applies to receive food there must be a Persons Profile Charter, outlining their specific nutritional needs. This New Bill should be for the majority and not the minority and assistance given where needed most. It must be policed properly to ensure it's not abused or used as a blame factor.

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.

As a Chef with over 35yrs experience in this field. It is always a challenge to create sustainable and seasonal foods that cover all the food groups. It's not impossible it needs work, commitment and continuity. We have keen and eager students studying that can be used as work placements and the future Ambassadors. Scotland have in the past led the world in food and nutrition. A Bill with good structure and backing can get Scotland back on the Food Map where others learn from us.

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)?

This Bill cannot be politicised, it is purely impartial and the people chosen to be the Names & Faces must be unbiased. Food is everyone's requirement, it's everyone friend.