

# 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

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:**

Retired Depute Headteacher

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).

Clare McCready

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.**

When I worked as a Depute Headteacher I had numerous pupils in my care whose families relied on foodbanks. Sometimes would talk about the stress this caused them, and how this stress, in turn affected their ability to concentrate in school.

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. The pandemic has increased the need for foodbanks - more people rely on them now than at any time since they were first established.

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.**

A statutory body is need to take an overview of the situation and establish the quality of information required to support the legislative framework.

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 newly created body is necessary in order to sit over existing structures and provide oversight, identifying where there are gaps or overlap. This newly formed body needs to have the power to hold the Scottish Government responsible for enacting the legislation and ensuring that it brings about measurable change.

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 believe the Right to Food has to be one of our primary concerns, and would place it at the forefront of any proposed Human Rights legislation, because people cannot function in any other areas of their lives if they are hungry. Before I retired from teaching, I was heavily involved in delivering the Attainment Challenge agenda and it was very clear that children who are hungry find it difficult to learn. My school addressed this in-house by setting up a breakfast club open to children in deciles 1&2 who wished to access it, in addition to those pupils who were looked After or in Kinship Care. This is an example of the type of support which should be offered.

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.**

There are many examples of the type of local initiatives which offer support like the one described above, but it is not enough to rely on the public to help themselves. Support is piecemeal across the country, and often it is not proportionate to the level of need in a specific area. There needs to be a national framework, with the same right to food on offer to everyone, no matter where they live in Scotland, thus this responsibility must sit with 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.**

During the pandemic many people have been furloughed, had to use any savings they may have had, or lost their job or business, resulting in a massive increase in the number of foodbanks across the country, thus demonstrating the increased need for the right to food to be enshrined in law.

## 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.**

If the new body which is set up to oversee the right to food works efficiently any initial increases in costs should be balanced out by savings later eg reduced costs in NHS or child and adult support services.

## 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.**

Where parents live in poverty, a higher proportion of their income is spent on food. If this were not the case, they would be able to provide more opportunities for their children to experience a wider range of activities, allowing them to engage more with their communities.

## 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.**

If the Right to Food was made law, it would lead to a healthier population and improved attainment outcomes for families. It would also reduce the levels of anxiety and depression which in turn should reduce NHS costs. Finally, it would set Scotland apart as a world leader in promoting the health and wellbeing of her people.

## 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)?

Where Scotland has lead in health matters in the past (eg anti-smoking legislation), others have followed. It is time for us to lead again.