



**TRA response to Daniel Johnson MSP's consultation on violence against retailers**

**#NotPartOfTheJob**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Which of the following best expresses your view of creating a new offence of assault against a worker in the retail sector?

Fully supportive –

Why?

TRA members are entrepreneurs whose businesses serve local communities across Scotland and the threat of violence in their shops is unacceptable. Assaults on workers are deeply damaging on a personal level and scare customers and other staff. This has knock on effects on trade and so if small retailers are to stay in business and continue to serve the community, they must be protected with tough sanctions.

Which of the following would you support as a way to respond to assaults on workers upholding statutory age-restrictions?

A new statutory offence

Why?

To reduce the risk of assault, a new statutory offence which had a sufficient level of punishment associated with it is needed. This would safeguard honest retailers who refuse to serve under-age people, this is in comparison to those selling illegal tobacco who don't ask for ID.

Information about this new offence could be displayed in small shops and would act as a deterrent to aggressive customers. It would also demonstrate that the Scottish Government is taking this matter seriously.

Which of the following would you support as a way to respond to abuse, harassment, threatening or obstruction of workers upholding statutory age-restrictions?

A new statutory offence (for all these types of behaviour)

Why?

Same reasons as above.

Do you think that there are other steps which could be taken (either instead of, or in addition to, legislation) to achieve the aims of the proposal?

Yes

What?

Threats and violence towards small retailers often happens because people want to steal high cost items like tobacco products. This is caused by the UK Government's many rises in tobacco taxes and regulations which lead to higher costs for retailers and price rises for customers in small retailers. While the Scottish Government cannot reduce national taxes and regulations, it should not add to the burden with further regional rules on tobacco retailers which would exacerbate this situation. It should also not consider introducing its own fiscal mechanisms that would increase the cost of tobacco.

Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

(a) Government and the public sector?

Stronger deterrents around violence towards shop keepers should see a decline in such instances, acting as a strong deterrent, that would then have a saving to the public purse by reducing costs and time incurred by the criminal justice system and police in dealing with such matters.

(b) Businesses

Broadly cost-neutral

(c) Individuals

Broadly cost-neutral

Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Unclear

What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected groups (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender reassignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Unclear

Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Yes

Why?

Deterring crime and will strengthen and protect small retailers who play a vital role in providing local neighbourhoods with goods and act as a focal point for engagement and community spirit. This will be good socially and economically.

Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal, for example, other trigger points for violence or abuse, and other workers who should be covered?

No

Which of the following describes your retail-sector experience (please tick all that apply)?

Working in premises selling other age-restricted products (e.g. tobacco, knives etc.)

Which of the following describes your experience of violence or verbal abuse in the retail sector (please tick all that apply)?

*Blank*