

Proposed Tied Pubs (Code and Adjudicator) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

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; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation

Please provide 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.

Q1. 1. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing a statutory Scottish Pubs Code and Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Comments:

I am afraid I think the decline will continue no matter what is done regarding tied houses. Drinks of all kinds whether alcohol or soft drinks have for long time been much cheaper in supermarkets. That has led to

Q1. 1. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing a statutory Scottish Pubs Code and Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator? Please explain the reasons for your response.

many changing their habits and more drink socially at home or do not drink so much at all. Perhaps that is a good thing given the anti-social behaviour in town centres especially at weekends.

Q2. 2. Could the aims of this proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response.

if pubs are to be saved then supermarket prices need to rise a lot. Many more young people are not drinking so much as a generation ago and that might be better education at school or at home. Young people have many other ways to spend disposable income than go "drinking". Whilst the thrust of the bill is ok it is probably 30 years too late. People are better off investing in rented property than running a pub. The willingness of a generation ago to work long hours and late at night is fast disappearing and younger folk want a more balanced existence with leisure time of their own. Young people have higher levels of debt and cant afford to spend on nights out so much as the last generation.

Q3. 3. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of establishing a statutory Scottish Pubs Code and Adjudicator?

Not many or indeed none.

Q4. 4. What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of establishing a statutory Scottish Pubs Code and Adjudicator?

None

Q5. 5. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing a Market Rent Only option for tenants as part of a Scottish Pubs Code?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response

there are ups and downs in either way forward The value of pubs might drop further if things are too regulated.

Q6. 6. What do you think of the proposed contents of the Bill and the Code, and the scope of the Adjudicator's powers, as detailed on pages 17-18 of the consultation document?

Too much interference

Q7. 7. Which of the following best expresses your view of the Scottish Pubs Code Adjudicator being able to impose financial penalties for breaches of the Code?

Partially opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Financial sanctions will need civil servants to implement and will add little to the set up. People already feel stifled by regulations. It might help speed up the demise of more pubs.

Q8. 8. In terms of who the Scottish Pubs Code, and Market Rent Only option, should apply to, which of the following best expresses your view? If you choose option (a) you will automatically be taken to question 10. If you choose (b) or (c) you will automatically be taken to question 9.

(b) The Scottish Pubs Code should apply to all tied pubs in Scotland, but the Market Rent Only option should only apply to tenants of larger pubcos.

Q9. 9. How should larger pubcos be defined (e.g. by size of turnover, number of tied pubs owned in Scotland (if so, how many, etc.))?

3 or more

Page 17: Financial implications

Q10. 10. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) the pub companies which own tied pubs (Pubcos)		X				
(b) Tied-pub tenants				X		
(c) Tied-pub customers			X			

Please explain the reasons for your response

I feel the main problem is lack of business and reducing customer numbers and without a substantial reduction in prices compared to supermarkets none of this will matter.

Q11. 11. How do you think the associated costs of the proposal (predominantly the establishment and on-going running costs of a Scottish Pub Code Adjudicator) should be funded?

it should not be funded by anyone - dont do it.

Page 19: Equalities

Q12. 12. 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 and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Q13. 13. In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on any of the protected characteristics be minimised or avoided?

No Response

Page 21: Sustainability of the Proposal

Q14. 14. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think it seeks to address the wrong problem - but I will watch with interest.

Page 22: General

Q15. 15. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

If it seeks to save pubs from going under then other strategies are needed at the same time.

Look at the competition from other drinks outlets.

Listen to small pub owners and what they think.