

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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation

Allan Merry

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.

Fully supportive

Comments:

I believe the Tied Pubs in Scotland does not lead to a good choice for the consumer and can cause additional problems to pub landlords

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.

I doubt the large Beer Companies would respond to anything other than protective legislation

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

More freedom for pub landlords in dealings with the Beer Companies and eventually more choice of product for consumer

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

None I can think of

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Not totally sure of the significance one way or another

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?

I am in general supportive of this aspect of the bill

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?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Someone has to adjudicate in disputes and financial penalties may be necessary in dealing with the companies

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.

(a) The Scottish Pubs Code - including the Market Rent Only option - should apply to all tied pubs in Scotland

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I think this option would be most beneficial for those with tied pubs

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.))?

No Response

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 am not sure how consumers would be affected as far as cost is concerned

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?

Funding by companies and pub landlords, with some Scottish Parliament funding as well

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)

Please explain the reasons for your response

The Equality Act will still be in place

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

Unsure

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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

Any economic impact, IMO, will be minimal

Page 22: General

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

No