

Proposed Football (Strict Liability) (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

Name or Name of Organisation

Lee-Anne Menzies

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.

████████████████████

Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to introduce strict liability for football clubs in Scotland?

Fully Supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

As a woman that is a season ticket holder at Heart of Midlothian FC, I see the fantastic effect of OBFA. More women attend matches, all fans check their own behaviour, police act quicker, stewards are more responsive. There is generally a better atmosphere. I am no longer subjected to other fan's vile sectarianism on such a regular basis, although it still happens. It would be far better if they were compelled to act as the response to offensive behaviour differs from club to club. We have an old guard in most

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to introduce strict liability for football clubs in Scotland?

clubs, of middle-aged men who have always acted this way. They run the supporter's groups and in our case the Federation of Hearts is full of them. They still believe sexism, homophobia and sectarianism are "banter". The clubs need to be prompted to act to disband this, instil new attitudes and perhaps new people. There are very few women in these groups, that must also change. Women will not, however, put themselves forward when these antiquated attitudes prevail. Those guilty of such know they are wrong, outdated and out of touch but while still excused by their clubs, will still stay with same behaviours.

Q2. 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

There have been many chances for clubs to do this and they choose not to for whatever reason.

Q3. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of holding clubs responsible for the behaviour of their supporters?

They would be able to attract more families, women would feel more comfortable attending without a male accompanying them. Their corporate sales would surely go up if it was perceived as a good corporate venue. At the moment, most clubs corporate facilities are purchased by existing fans as a birthday or other treat. Or as existing fans as a tax break through their business. That is not attracting new fans. Clubs need to attract big business to flourish, advertising revenue could be boosted. Reputations could be restored where needed. It is inaction that sends the wrong message to those that want to offend and act badly.

Q4. What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of holding clubs responsible for the behaviour of their supporters?

There would be initial bad PR. Loss of revenue at the very early stages possibly. Fans who have been allowed to act badly for a long time may turn away from the club. Short term losses do not outweigh the long-term gains. If this is successful then the re-introduction of alcohol at football may be appealing in the long term. At present that would be unthinkable.

Page 11: Behaviours and sanctions

Q5. If there is to be a system of strict liability, which of the following behaviours do you think should be covered (choose all that apply)--

The throwing of objects

The lighting of fireworks or any other incendiary objects

The use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices

Q5. If there is to be a system of strict liability, which of the following behaviours do you think should be covered (choose all that apply)--

Violent or threatening behaviour

Abusive or offensive language or messages (including verbal abuse of any person by reference to their race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief or disability)

Acts of damage

Disorder in or near the stadium

Please explain the reasons for your response

I have not ticked the pitch invasion box as it would depend wholly on the circumstances of such. A small team from the lower leagues will have "pitch invasions" when reaching a final or some other great achievement. With no adverse consequences, I do not believe it to be a dangerous situation. Only when other poor behaviours are involved does a "pitch invasion" become an issue. This should not be blanketed, it should be taken as a case by case.

Q6. If there is to be a system of strict liability, which of the following sanctions do you think should be available (choose all that apply)--

Warning/reprimand

Fine

Ban on selling tickets to supporters for away matches

Playing of a match behind closed doors (i.e. fans not able to attend)

Partial stadium closure (i.e. certain sections of a stadium closed to fans)

Community action (e.g. education programmes, working with local schools)

Please explain the reasons for your response

The penalties should not affect the majority but be targeted specifically to those that behave badly. An entire support of say 20,000 should not suffer for the actions of 500 of those.

Page 13: Financial implications

Q7. 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 costneutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Football clubs			X			
(b) Football supporters and other individuals			X			
(c) Scottish Government and public sector bodies (such as Police Scotland)				X		

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It would need to be fully costed, these are simply my educated estimations of the long term effect. Short term I believe costs would rise in most of the categories.

Page 14: Equalities

Q8. 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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

It has to be better to finally get rid of bad behaviour at Scottish football grounds.

Q9. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on any of these protected characteristics be minimised or avoided?

Those that strongly object and shout loudest will be those that want to protect their stance or poor behaviour. You cannot ignore or prevent that.

Page 16: Sustainability of the proposal

Q10. 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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Please do not fall into the trap that the working classes will be affected most nonsense. Working classes are not all sectarian or sexist or homophobic. Football grounds are full of self-employed middle-aged men

Q10. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

that use that 2 hours as a venting exercise because they have always been allowed to! It's that simple. Class and to some extent wealth have nothing to do with this.

Page 17: General

Q11. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal to introduce strict liability for football clubs in Scotland?

Great stuff!