

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".)

Academic with expertise in a relevant subject

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)

Name or Name of Organisation

[REDACTED]

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.

[REDACTED]

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

I believe that several clubs (mainly from Glasgow) have been able to absolve themselves from any blame, after their fans have brought shame across the Scottish game. Sectarian signing, violence and criminal damage have all occurred in recent years without any punishment - as those clubs have "tried really hard

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

to stop their fans from behaving that way". Point deductions would be my choice of punishment as I feel it would be an incredibly effective way to prevent bad behaviour.

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

Unsure

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

They will take real steps toward preventing offensive/illegal fan behaviour and punish those fans properly. Point deductions would be an excellent deterrent for example.

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

Consistency and "What-about-ary", where one punished club makes attempts to absolve themselves of blame by pointing out that another club has committed the same act but hasn't been punished.

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 invasion or attempted invasion of a field of play

The throwing of objects

The lighting of fireworks or any other incendiary objects

The use of laser pointers or similar electronic devices

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

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)--

Please explain the reasons for your response

All of these acts aren't permitted in the game and in most cases aren't permitted in the street. So they should all be covered by the act.

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)--

Fine

Match-specific penalties (e.g. annulment of result; requiring a match to be replayed; forfeiting a match)

Competition-specific penalties (e.g. deduction of points; withdrawal of title; disqualification/exclusion)

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

It would be unfair to financially disadvantage a team who is innocent, by banning the offending fans from attending the away section. So the offending team should have their next home game played behind closed doors.

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				

Q7. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There will be staff to pay for to monitor (and punish) fan behaviour. Some of this cost will be offset by club fines perhaps?

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

No-one is born racist/sexist/homophobic - it instead comes from being exposed to behaviour. If a young person sees offensive behaviour often enough, then they feel it is ok/normal to replicate it. Fans also get into a pattern of behaviour, where if it goes unpunished then there will be no let up from the individual. If they and the club are punished it may reduce their offending significantly which then impacts positively on young people that are exposed to similar behaviour.

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

No Response

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?

Unsure

Page 17: General

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

No Response