

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

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?

Partially Supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I don't really know a lot about it and am not a football supporter, but I do think there should be some responsibility from the clubs for their fans behaviour.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Actually I think not, but dont know enough about it. I dont see how it could be implemented without a Bill in parliament.

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

I would hope that the fans would want to respect the club...and their would be motivation on part of the club to ensure that fans behave. There has to be a motivation to change behaviours and this could be a motivation.  
Clubs do have a responsibility as to the behaviour of their fans.

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

I cant think of any!

## 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

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The lighting of fireworks or any other incendiary objects

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Violent or threatening behaviour

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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)

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Acts of damage

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Disorder in or near the stadium

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**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It would have to be specific. Invading the field is difficult as it could be done in a non threatening manner...but the others I have ticked could cause harm and are offenses..not sure about laser pointers.

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

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)

Playing of a match in a neutral stadium

Restriction on the number of players that a club may register for participation in SFA competitions

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I think all are potentially appropriate. The sanction would have to be appropriate to the offence, so there could be several options.

## 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		
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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.**

I think the clubs would carry most of the cost, maybe the supporters a wee bit. I think it would lead to a reduction in offences and spare the public purse.

## 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?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Not sure that it would have any major impact, although it may lead to the prevention of racist or sexist behaviour/language if the clubs take responsibility for fans actions.

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

Dont think there would be a negative impact.

## 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.**

Dont see why not. Football clubs have a lot of money and influence. It is in their interest that fans behave, so I dont see why this cant be delivered.

## Page 17: General

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

Like I said, not a football supporter, however what has always put me off football is the behaviour of the fans. SO anything that improves this is good!