

# 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

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 find the current behaviour of some fans abhorrent and it clearly falls within the remit of the sports clubs and organisation.

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**

I do not know enough about the internal structure of football organisations to reliably comment.

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

Many supporters hold their team in extremely high regards - in some cases like a faith. If clubs were to be seriously chastised due to fan or player behaviour. Fining or docking of points could seriously hurt their team and it's interests.

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

The cost of arranging new practices could result in prices being passed on to supporters.

## 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

---

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Anything that endangers or violates another person's rights should be addressed.

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)

---

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

---

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Many US sports clubs and or leagues have, for years, operated under the practice of team-based penalties. If supporters misbehave, their team pays the price. I'm unaware of any reason why this method would not work here in Scotland.

## 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.**

The arrangement and handling of new rules will always have a cost of additional admin, press & marketing etc. For clubs. This is typically passed on to supporters via ticket price hikes, rise in merchandise cost etc. Hopefully any reduction in immediate violence in or outside of stadiums will result in a small saving for Police Scotland.

## 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**

This is the 21st century. Scotland is a developed country. There should be no place in our society for the verbal or physical abuse of minority groups. Particularly over what is, let's be honest, a game.

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

Give enough time to the clubs to properly implement the any new rules.

## 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

## 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*