

# 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?

Fully opposed

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

SL would unfairly punish football in general. Sanctions would not be applied fairly or proportionately. It is fundamentally flawed and unworkable.

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

Yes (if so, please explain below)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Unacceptable Conduct guidelines have just been reviewed and tightened up. They must be given time to work. Also, existing legislation already exists to deal with criminal behaviour, was in existence prior to the OBA and will continue to exist long after the OBA is repealed.

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

There would be no advantages.

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

Clubs would be punished for events which they have no control over.

If a customer in Tesco makes a racist remark towards a customer of ethnic minority should Tesco be held strictly liable for that person's hate crime?

Existing legislation would be used. Why should football be any different? Why would you want to discriminate against one particular culture (football) when it's discrimination you are trying to eradicate in the first place?

## 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)--

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

None. Existing legislation/unacceptable conduct already covers all of the above.

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)--

*No Response*

### 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)						

### 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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Above all covered by existing legislation. Cultural and societal issues which require education and early intervention. I.e. In schools. Tolerance and inclusion should be encouraged. Religion should be taught in schools NOT practised.

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?

SL is a wholly ludicrous idea.

Are alcohol manufacturers going to be held strictly liable for the carnage the consumption of their products causes in homes, on streets and a&e departments week in, week out? Don't be daft!

No one is born a bigot. As long as we have state funded denominational schools how can we expect the cultural issue of sectarianism to even begin to be eradicated? It's a historical issue that isn't going to be 'fixed' with the introduction of SL. Early intervention is key. Education, inclusion, tolerance all required. Not the discrimination and persecution of The Beautiful Game.