

# Proposed Licensing of Funfairs (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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jacqueline Macleod

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 - Aim and approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to exempt funfairs from Public Entertainment Licensing requirements and to create a distinct new licensing system for funfairs in Scotland?

Fully Supportive

### **Please explain the reasons for your response**

The fairs are part of the Scottish public's cultural heritage as well as the cultural heritage of the Showpeople Community. The Showpeople contribute to our economy and this needs formal recognition and support. The

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to exempt funfairs from Public Entertainment Licensing requirements and to create a distinct new licensing system for funfairs in Scotland?

UK is behind the EU in relation to this legislation. The change is long overdue because the situation as it currently stands puts the Showpeople communities' way of life at risk and directly adversely affects the social heritage of many people in Scotland.

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**

Legislative power is necessary but should be supported in other ways too. For example, the Showpeople are not recognised by the Local Authorities in the annual forms that register a child's personal details in the school system.

Q3. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of the proposal?

It would make it easier for the Showpeople to run their business. The government should be more supportive of enterprise and more transparent in terms of the vast differences between Local Authorities. This is a win-win situation whereby enterprise, economy and sustainability are supported as well as recognition of this business community. Support for the fairs also benefit local businesses in the towns. The history behind the location of the fairs is fascinating.

Q4. What do you think will be the main disadvantages, if any, of the proposal?

I don't see how there can be any disadvantages. The sometimes negative perception of the Showpeople community is due to ignorance by the general public whereby there is confusion with some travelling or gypsy communities. This legislation would help clarify and educate the wider public to the fundamental differences.

Q5. What do you think the maximum time available should be for local authorities to make a decision on an application to hold a funfair?

unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I am not certain what criteria Local Authorities use and the time it takes to consider traffic, health and safety etc.

Q6. How do you think fees should be determined for local authorities to process an application?

fee must not exceed the cost of processing the application

**Please explain the reasons for your response, including details of the amount of any suggested fees.**

It's for the greater good, the local authority will benefit in many other ways.

Q7. What is your view on what should happen to the fee in cases where an application is refused?

Full fee returnable to the applicant

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It is part of the role of Local Authorities to provide consideration and advice on issues related to planning. The wider public benefit from this as part of their tax system and, and Showpeople, as financial contributors to the system, should be treated in the same manner.

## Page 14: Financial implications

Q8. 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 cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Showpeople						X
(b) Local authorities						X
(c) General public						X

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Not enough information to usefully comment.

## Page 15: Equalities

Q9. 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**

There is a need for clarity and formal recognition for Showpeople. Anything that improves this situation is good. But this Bill is only part of the solution.

Q10. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

What negative impact on equality?

## Page 17: Sustainability

Q11. 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:**

Fairs have socio-economic and environmental impacts as does anything that we do. A more transparent system will help.

## Page 18: General

Q12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal to exempt funfairs from Public Entertainment Licensing requirements and to create a distinct new licensing system for funfairs in Scotland?

How long will it take? Time is running out with the younger generation of Showpeople changing direction due to the increasing difficulties of maintaining a living from the family business. It would be a sad day for Scotland if our children are denied the experience of the fair we had as children. There's nothing sustainable about that.