

Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill: Introductory Questions



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Thank you for responding to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's Call for Evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. All submissions will be examined and considered as part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill.

Please be aware that questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer before you can submit the form.

Follow the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's Twitter feed - all Committee tweets on this Bill will have the hashtag #aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name:

Fiona M. Stewart, Acting
Convener

Organisation:

SOLAR Licensing Working
Group

Address 1:

Address 2:

City/Town:

Postcode:

Country:

Email address (if no email leave blank):

Phone Number:

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SUBMISSION ID
NUMBER

35

*** 2. Please confirm that you have read and understood the Scottish Parliaments [“Policy on the treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees”](#):**

Yes

*** 3 Please confirm whether you are content for your name to be published with your submission:**

Yes

No

*** 4. Which of the three categories below best describes your interest in the Bill (please tick only one)?**

Personal

Professional

Commercial

*** 5. Do you wish your email to be added to the Committee’s distribution list for updates on progress of the Bill:**

Yes

No

*** 6. Invitations to give oral evidence to the Committee on the Bill will be based on the submissions received. If you wish your submission to be included amongst those considered for possible invitation to give oral evidence, please indicate here.**

Yes

No

*** 7. You may answer questions on the entire Bill, or on any part of the Bill. Please indicate which parts of the Bill you are responding to? (You may select as many options that apply).**

All of the Bill

Equalities, climate change and other Scottish Government objectives

Air Weapons

General licensing issues

Alcohol licensing

Civic licensing – taxi/private hire car licensing

Civic licensing – scrap metal dealers

Civic licensing – theatre licensing

Civic licensing – sexual entertainment venues

SOLAR Licensing Group

Name/Organisation:

1. Equalities, Climate Change and other Scottish Government objectives

You may respond to all the questions or only those you have a specific interest in. (Text boxes have no word limit, they will increase in size accordingly).

8. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications for meeting Scotland's climate change commitments? Please explain.

No comment

9. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications for meeting Scotland's equality and/or human rights commitments? Please explain.

No comment

10. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications for preventative spending and/ or public services reform? Please explain.

No comment

11. Do you consider that the Bill has any implications in relation to European Union issues? Please explain.

The 1982 Act is now long past its sell by date and is not compatible with the EUSD for several reasons.

Electronic communications is being addressed but the issue of fees and enforcement has not been addressed

12. Do you have any other comments on the impact of the proposals contained in the Bill relation to Scottish Government objectives?

No comment

SOLAR Licensing Group

Name/Organisation:

4. Taxi and Private Hire Car Licensing

You may respond to all questions or only those you have a specific interest in. (Text boxes have no word limit, they will increase in size accordingly).

35. What benefits should the licensing of taxis and private hire cars deliver for customers?

Public safety – suitable drivers and safe vehicles.

36. In what ways do customers, providers of taxi/private hire car services and local authorities benefit from the two-tier licensing regime for taxis and private hire cars?

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the public do not know the difference between the two.

The current system allows local authorities to attach greater restrictions to taxis than private hire cars

37. The Government states that a radical overhaul of the current two-tier licensing regime would “clearly require a very high level of resource and would cause significant disruption for the trade, local authorities, the police and ultimately the travelling public”. What are your views on this and would the potential costs and disruptions outweigh any potential benefits of a unified system?

It will cause disruption.

Local Authorities have well established licensing schemes for both.

38. Do the changes made by sections 60 (overprovision of private hire car licences) and 61 (testing of private hire car drivers) of the Bill strike the right balance in terms of introducing greater consistency while maintaining justifiable differences?

No. There will be practical difficulties in implementing two different quantity restrictions with significant associated costs for local authorities.

The power for local authorities to introduce such tests is welcome, however, it should be left to local authority discretion as to whether the power should be implemented

39. Do you have any views on the section 62 provisions bringing vehicles contracted for exclusive use for 24 or more hours within the licensing regime for taxis and private hire cars, and should any exemptions be included in the Bill?

SOLAR welcomes this.

