

Brian Carson

Question 1: Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully Supportive

As I deal with front line Health and Safety issues, I believe some organisations see health and safety as an affordable breach to take as they rarely carry the real costs of their actions, it is passed on to the community through potentially life-changing medical care being met by the NHS.

Question 2: What do you think would be the main practical advantages and disadvantages of the proposed Bill?

It would increase the benefits of adhering to Health and Safety for fear of increased costs as often it is a relatively small fine compared to the drain on the NHS resources for on-going care and potential disability payments on the already overstretched welfare system meaning people who need services are under threat of so called austerity measures as the working members of the public pick up another bill for big businesses also increase the Costs of not adhering to them would serve as more of a deterrent.

Question 3: What is your view of my preference for the recovery of medical costs for the treatment of industrial disease in Scotland to be incorporated into the Injury Costs Recovery scheme and administered by the Compensation Recovery Unit, part of the UK Department for Work and Pensions?

Partially Supportive

I am unsure if this group recovers any monies awarded or fined at court or FAI's these costs should be included in any award at that time or added once known or estimated with the option to return for an appraisal if an employee's condition deteriorates.

Question 4: Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

- (a) Government and the public sector:** some reduction in cost
- (b) Businesses:** some increase in cost
- (c) Individuals:** some reduction in cost

As long as the group recovering costs has strict guidelines so it does not cost £30000 to recover £25000 I can only see this as a benefit to society.

My only concern would be if it was used to target an individual who breached H&S due to hidden pressures from an employer as this I would not be supportive of.

Question 5: Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

At the time of any HSE investigation, prosecution or Fatal accident inquiry costs for care could be recovered, included at this time and awarded through the court with the option of reviewing if any change or deterioration in condition suffered.

Question 6: 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, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral

As long as the Act is applied properly there should be no breach of the Equalities Act. The only issue is if employees were targeted then this would have several potential Breaches of the Equalities Act.

Question 7: In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Do not try and recover costs from someone who has suffered an industrial accident as even if they were partly to blame you would more than likely Breach the Act as they may have a recognized disability.

Question 8: 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

Again from a Health and Safety point of view, if companies adhere to H&S there will be no increase in cost. The TUC has numerous studies proving the figures of such. If there is a breach the charge would lessen the burden on the NHS which would give much needed funds to be allocated to the community currently suffering cuts in both NHS the wider welfare bill. Also the environmental considerations are all part of good Health and Safety partnerships.

Question 9: Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

Get multi Union, Stuc and TUC support, I picked this up from Scottish Hazards a cross union body for Health and Safety.