

Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (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 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Jane Crewe

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

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Any form of physical punishment harms children. We want to be the best place for children to grow up, as a Society we are better than this.

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

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

Why shouldn't our children be equal to us, as adults? What does that say about us as a Society? A Bill is a legal statement of our truths. Nothing else will do.

Q3. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

At best, it will help EVERYONE in Scotland to think about how our future citizens should be treated.

I would like to see this Bill taken forward along with greater education and access to child development and brain development courses - these should be universally available at different times during a child's development. There should be no stigma attached, we need to educate everyone.

Also, we need to talk about what causes parents to hit their kids, we need to be open about the pressures of modern life and then we need to look for solutions to help ease those pressures so that parents are freed to make positive relationships with their children.

We need to show parents that there are alternatives to punishment.

Q4. What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of giving children equal protection from assault by prohibiting all physical punishment of children?

We need to be careful that having legal protection does not mean that an adult who makes a mistake will be punished with the full rule of law. We need to reduce the fear that having a law will bring and we need to make sure that parents who use physical punishment are not driven to greater secrecy.

Page 11: Financial implications

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I do not believe the Bill itself would carry any major cost implications if discretion was used in how it was applied. However, there would be cost implications if courses for parents were provided as a support for the Bill and as a help.

Page 12: Equalities

Q6. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on the following protected groups (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I believe that the Bill would be added protection for some of these groups who may attract a higher than average use of physical punishment.

Q7. Could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on any of these protected groups be minimised or avoided?

No Response

Page 14: Sustainability of the proposal

Q8. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having a disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impact?

Yes

Page 15: General

Q9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

No Response