

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Frank Wallace

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

It is unthinkable that hitting a child could ever be acceptable. Even without explaining that it sends the wrong message that violence is the answer, that children are the property of their parents, it's simply beyond the scope of any moral person to think "I can hit this person as long as I don't leave visible damage". What other context could a fully grown adult hit another person and expect not to get arrested? I think if you hit children, you have failed as a parent, as a human, and you are little better than a child abuser.

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

Certain things need to be enforced in law so that the public are aware of the situation and react to it. Warnings, programs, campaigns, people can ignore these things. But just like with smoking laws and plastic bag laws, once the law is in place, people react to it in the correct fashion.

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?

It would encourage parents to treat their children like people, listen to their views, respect their wishes, and allow them to develop naturally. Children being hit may not seem like a big deal to a parent, but to a child, the people who their entire lives revolve around are causing them pain and emotional damage. There's no way of knowing the long term effects, so removing this problem would improve the mental health of children and help them to grow into strong confident adults who give the respect back that they received as children.

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?

Other than the usual frothing at the mouth from overly self important parents about their imaginary right to do whatever they want with and to their children, I fail to see any actual drawbacks. Society accepts that I cannot simply slap my mum or my brother whenever I like, and it continues to function. The same will apply here.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Broadly cost-neutral

Please explain the reasons for your response

Like most laws, once the actual process is in place, the vast majority of people will follow it without issue.

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

After a period of adjustment, society will adapt to it. After all, it doesn't cost anything NOT to do something, and in the rare occasions where transgressions take place they would be covered by normal policing.

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't believe it changes the status of any of these particular groups in any major fashion.

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

If there were some predicted issues, then I'm sure Government initiatives via the Civil Service could provide any training or education required to people.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

It would be a societal change, rather than a massive financial spend or huge building project. Nothing about any person's work or income position should change. In fact, other than a change in attitude from some parents, there would be no negative outside impact to society at all.

Page 15: General

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

It's a good idea that should have already been in place years ago. Hitting people to shut them up or control them or whatever is not acceptable behaviour from any adult.