

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 would like this response to be anonymous (the response may be published, but no name)

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

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

I think physical punishment is cruel and ineffective. As a teacher it seems clear to me that kids who come from homes where physical punishment is used are generally less good at moderating their behaviour than children who rarely or never receive physical punishment. My parents smacked us when I was a child. It left me less trustful of and less able to open up to my parents, and it taught my big brother that it was ok for him to hit me.

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

Unsure

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 shift the cultural norm. Like smoking inside in public places, smacking would become (much more) socially unacceptable. I heard a sad tale on the radio this morning about a teacher who lost his job after hitting his daughter in a dentist's waiting room. If the law had outlawed hitting children completely at the time the man would never have even considered hitting his daughter, and he would still have his job today. But above all children will be safer and happier. And perhaps parents will have some incentive to learn about gentle (non-punitive) parenting techniques.

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 might have endure listening to Ann Atkins moaning on the radio again, about how we should all be allowed to wallop... I mean smack, our precious wee ones.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Some reduction in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Fewer mental health problems. Fewer behaviour problems in schools. Possibly even fewer admissions to A&E.

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

People in all these groups start out as children and will therefore benefit in the long run.

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

Train health visitors in gentle parenting techniques that they can pass on to parents.

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:

The act will likely change parental behaviour. I can't think of any way in which this bill could be unsustainable economically, socially or environmentally.

Page 15: General

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

I think this will be an excellent Bill. Long overdue.