

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Nick Dunne

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

If assault between adults is a criminal offence as it should be the same should also apply to children, if not more so, given the power differential, the responsibility of adults to protect and nurture children, and the devastating effects of child abuse both in the immediate environment and developmentally for the future.

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

I believe parliament functions best by providing a lead and leading by example, I have been very impressed by how accessible and responsive the Scottish Parliament generally tries to be, especially so when more progressive parties and representatives appear to have greater influence, i.e. not Tories of any hue.

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?

Providing a social, cultural and legal frame that acknowledges that human rights apply to all ages and stages of development and are protected under the Law.

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?

The only disadvantage would be to people who offend against others through physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.

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

Long term reduction in social and mental health cost as this is primarily a preventative measure

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

Extends and reinforces existing protections, children cannot be "exempted" from any protections or rights allowed to adults.

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

Some Religious or belief systems that favour chastisement, or abuse of children may feel disadvantage or discriminated against, this would include some family systems and cultures that propagate violence against women and children, which might also be homophobic and racist, any backlash of this kind needs to be educated for and robustly confronted.

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 just extends rights to children that are already protected against other forms of abuse e.g. under the Children (Scotland) Act, albeit not always adequately, this legislation could help tighten this up and make the protections more secure,

Page 15: General

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

thank you for bringing forward this legislation it is some thing I wholeheartedly support both professionally and personally, can I suggest you also seek comments from the College of Psychiatrists, GPs and Paediatricians.