

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Eamonn Kelly

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

My young child was abused by his grandmother and hidden from his mother for a period of 5 years . This was allowed to continue because social services were accepting that what he was saying to me was acceptable admonishment .It took a court case of over three years and the involvement of police lawyers and the children's reporters administration SWIA Dr Christine Robertson and councillors at senior levels to unravel the truth . Social workers and child protection officers cannot deal clearly with grey areas . My young child told 32 professionals on 26 seperate occasions spanning 4 years of his abuse but this grey area left him completely defenceless. It cost me my career and 10 years of my life to get him the protection that a simple smacking ban would have afforded him immediately.

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

No

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 protect children and ease the confusion that clearly exists in child protection .

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?

Absolutely none.

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 increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

It would likely lead to increased child protection investigations until the public had adjusted to the new law .However I would expect a long term benefit as our children would grow up more balanced and less violent.

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)

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

The systems are in place and it can only benefit our countries population long term due to violence being removed from the lives of our young children .

Page 15: General

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

This is an extremely important step in the development of our youngest members of society and is long overdue .animals receive greater protection in this country.