

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Lindsay Logie

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 experience and reading suggests that physical punishment as a form of discipline doesn't work and it is harmful in what it teaches children. To live in a society that does not protect those who are dependent and unable to stand up for themselves makes no sense when we are striving to make Scotland the best place to grow up in. I believe the culture change is required without criminalising families, and experience from elsewhere suggests the change in common law or removing defence is a sensible way to go.

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**

The law is needed to draw a line under this archaic culture

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?

The culture will change and allow families to know they cannot and should not hit children for punishment and allow other forms of discipline to flourish bringing children confidence and safety

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?

I know the argument will be about the right to a private family life and about not criminalising parents who smack. However this proposal just removes a loophole in the law and my experience (for instance working with teenagers having underage sex) is we as professionals, including the police can find a sensible and measured approach that will not end up in court. Those however who are harming their children with physical abuse will still have full child protection procedures followed and rightly so, will be charged if the evidence shows this.

## 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**

I would expect some initial increased pressure on agencies working with families and children as the law is settled in, (perhaps requiring increased resources) but after time the cultural aspects will be the main benefit, with no extra societal cost

## 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?

Slightly positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Likely to help all family relationships

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

No anticipated negative effects

## 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?

Please can a public/TVdebate and explanation with the sensible wider view on this be considered to ensure the public see it is not about criminalising families