

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Lindsey Robb

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

why should children be treated differently to adults? Societal views have changed and many people no longer think physical punishment of children is acceptable It is NOT compatible with Children's Rights The evidence suggests that many parents agree that this is an ineffectual method of discipline, is associated with poor outcomes in adulthood and that it can lead onto maltreatment.

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

Given the current legislation allows for 'justifiable punishment' a legal solution is required. However, this should go alongside support and education for parents to find other means of disciplining their children rather than it being used to punish parents who often have limited parenting skills or support.

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 gives a clear message that 'hitting' someone is not acceptable
it gives children the clear message that Scotland will uphold their rights
it prevents children becoming more angry and frustrated leading to further bad behaviour
it prevents some children being injured when the physical punishment is extreme
it gives the message to parents that by not using physical punishment they provide a positive role model for children and demonstrates other ways to express anger and frustration

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?

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Parents who use physical punishment are often involved with services in some way, either through school, early years, GIRFEC or Child Protection services. This is because children learn to use physical punishment or have other issues with anger management so educational and peer difficulties emerge. In the short term providing education and support for alternative behaviour strategies might be costly. However, in the long term, children's behaviour would potentially improve at school as they learn not to hit

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

out at peers to resolve matters. These outcomes might then have a longer term impact in adult life so convictions for assault and violence might also reduce.

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

it aligns with this legislation as would include age. Physical punishment of children is not restricted to specific groups so this means this applies to many other groups ie religion, race, disability

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

by making the legislation for all children means that specific protected groups are not targeted - for example people can't blame religious or cultural beliefs

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 longer term benefits to society as a whole outweigh the economic outlay to provide support and education

Page 15: General

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

Such a bill highlights Scotland's commitment to promote well-being for all children and 'make Scotland the best place to grow up'.