

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 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 fully support this proposal to offer children equal protection under law from assault and furthermore, I believe that corporal punishment is not an appropriate or effective way of managing a child's behaviour.

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 do think that it must be explicit in law that children have the same protection from physical assault that I as an adult would. We have to recognise and accept as a society that sometimes this protection is required even from one's own parents.

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?

I think any legal change should be re-enforced by a publicity campaign to explain to parents and families the reasons for the change in the law. Global research has shown that changes in law are followed by a change in public opinion when there is public information to support the change. I believe this proposed change will send a clear message to all people that the physical assault of children is not acceptable nor is it effective. It also signals that children have rights and those are recognised and acknowledged by our government because children are important, their lives are important and their childhood is important.

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?

some people may feel scared to admit the difficulties they are having with parenting in case they worry they will be accused of assault if they admit to losing control once.

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

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I think people who have been brought up in societies where smacking is very common will not realise the different approach used here and therefore may inadvertently come under increased scrutiny but they would need to be given the right support to change how they parent their child.

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

if there are widely available and accessible parenting courses for children of all ages then health visitors and other staff can direct parents to clear sources of information to help them understand what is acceptable in our community in order to manage a child's behaviour.

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?

I fully support this proposal and I do feel that it will be most effective if it is delivered in the context of supporting parents and helping families as well as prioritising children and their equal right to protection from harm.