

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 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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 think that by using physical punishment on a child that you are setting a bad example. Effectively, you are teaching that child that it is alright to hit another person. I feel that this must contribute to bullying. Also, you risk perpetuating this type of behaviour in future generations. I also think that it is degrading to use your greater size and strength as a means of attempting to control another human.

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

If this measure is to be effective then it should be introduced through a bill. This will make it absolutely clear that it is not optional but something that we should all comply with. Anything less than this could be open to interpretation.

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?

We would be respecting children.

We would not be setting the example that it is alright to hit people who are smaller and weaker than you. Corporal punishment can never be part of a nurturing environment. Children need firm and constant guideline but this does not require physical punishment.

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?

Broadly cost-neutral

Please explain the reasons for your response

Whilst there may be a spike in the number of prosecutions in the period immediately after the proposed bill is implemented, I would expect that this would diminish over time as parents and carers understood their responsibilities. It would also make it absolutely clear to all that any physical abuse of a child, no matter how minimal, is not acceptable. This would mean that there would be fewer prosecutions where the person administering the physical abuse would get away with their behaviour by arguing on dubious grounds so police, social work and court time would be unlikely to be wasted

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

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

I am not sure what could be done to achieve this.

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 think that this is an important step that any civilized society should adopt.