

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Kyle Davidson

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**

Corporal punishment is an outdated, and frankly, morally objectionable practice. It is barbaric and has been found to be counterproductive as a parenting technique, so should be prohibited.

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 only way to ensure that the practice of corporal punishment is discontinued is by law. This is because the average person has no power to stop such actions and cannot be expected to do so.

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 benefit the mental and physical health of children - future generations - beyond measure.

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?

There are no disadvantages as such but some parents/carers may not be versed in alternative (and more effective) methods of discipline and I am concerned that there is no structure in place to teach the alternatives.

## 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 reduction in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

If corporal punishment were to be banned then there would logically be fewer children admitted to hospital/health centres when a parent uses excessive force (which is vaguely defined and open to interpretation, so people could do damage to children without consequence).

## 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)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

N/A

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

N/A

## 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:**

I believe (anecdotally, not having looked at specific research) that the majority of people now believe that corporal punishment of children is morally wrong so this bill would simply change the law to reflect cultural norms of what is acceptable. Economically, this bill would have no major costs other than the prosecution of those found to violate it. And these costs may be off-set by the theoretical savings made by safeguarding the physical and mental health of future generations.

## Page 15: General

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

N/A