

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Our third child was restrained on several occasions and subjected to being isolated from the rest of the school/classroom, in a tiny "quiet room" often with multiple members of staff, whilst he was in a state of extreme distress. This constant heightened anxiety and stress within mainstream resulted in him becoming often verbally and physically aggressive towards himself and staff which, had he been provided with the correct education provision would not have occurred. Not to mention the longterm emotional impact this has now had not only to our son but our whole family. As a result of these continued failings we have been left with no choice but to Home Educate our son.

Q2. Could the aims of the proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

Unsure

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?

If a child does not witness or experience physical punishment they will not be exposed to emotional and/or physical traumas that physical punishment leads to.

For example how can a child learn that violence is wrong if they are subjected to and/or witness to violence?

A child learns what they see and they must instead be taught how to better deal with their emotions/behaviours through compassion and support.

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 it would cost more to send our son and others with similar needs to a suitable education provision ultimately the cost would be less. There would be improved emotional and overall Health improvements for both the children and their families. Also there would be reduced stress/emotional impact for staff not equipped to deal with ASN which results in them using non recommended CALM physical restraint. I would be able to for example return to work in the future, which I have not been able to do due to his constant exclusions from school and school refusals. This would mean I would be contributing towards tax and not just my husband. We would therefore require less benefits. Our son would require less input from NHS due to being supported both emotionally and academically, again less cost to the public. There would

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be a higher likely hood of our son being financially independent, even if this meant living at our home, as an adult and therefore able to contribute financially to society as he will have reached his full potential.

## 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**

A ban on physical punishment for children can only benefit all.

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

*No Response*

## 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:**

Long term benefits of children not being witness or subject to physical punishment would potentially see an overall reduction of violence Eg domestic violence, bullying

## Page 15: General

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

That it is relevant to all, parents, careers, teachers etc