

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

my 15 year old son is regularly left bruised and shaken after school, and this has been the case since P1. I have been called to school on several occasions to find him being held down by 2/3 adults or locked in an empty room. The reason is always a fear that he would harm himself or others. He has however never harmed, or or appeared likely to harm anybody outside of school - therefore it would seem that staff reactions to him in school are at fault. Indeed if I were to be subjected to 2/3 grown men attempting to hold me down and force me into complying with them I believe I would understandably fight back, and it is only when he is subjected to this that anybody has been hurt. As a teenager he is now a large strong boy and could very easily harm me or others he works with, however he never has, indeed several friends describe him as a soft gentle boy, when he is stressed if the reaction is to give him room to breathe and calm himself (followed by a hug for deep pressures release) it will very quickly all be over.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

You would hope that common sense and experience would be changing these outdated and dangerous practices, however a Bill appears necessary to move this forward.

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?

a better level of trust and respect can be achieved between children and the adults in their world, and a new generation who do not believe physical intervention is the first and best option to gain control in a situation

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?

providing there are very clear guidelines and complaints procedures I can't see any negatives

## 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**

while re-training and educating will have an additional up front cost, the longer term savings of having well adjusted and engaged children who can become productive and included members of there school and wider community can only have savings and positive financial input - for example the negative mental health impact on son from his physical abuse with the education system has meant that I have had to give up work for several years and care for him full time, he is well behind academically and so will not be able to join the workforce and contribute for some time, this leaving two otherwise able bodied individuals

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

reliant on government support and not paying in to the system - all of which could have been avoided with a different ethos and structure in place for children with additional challenges

## 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)

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

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*