

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

No adult has the right to hit another adult. It is also wrong for an adult to hit a child. Calling it smacking minimises what is still hitting/assault.

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

Some people think because no harm was done to them by being smacked that it is ok. Only legislation will effect change. People should, by now, already largely know it isn't the right way to parent, but they continue regardless.

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 sets a very clear boundary. Currently, Police cannot act unless it is excessive, ie leaves a mark, or an implement is used.

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 children may think they can get away with anything.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Significant increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Our Police are likely to be run off their feet.

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

Not sure it should affect these groups any more than the majority.

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

I have no idea.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Not sure how public services will cope given an increase in reported incidents.

Page 15: General

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

I fully support the principle but as a social worker, have significant concerns about policing and also disproportionate response to the parent who isn't coping in a particular moment/incident but who wouldn't normally wish to cause any harm to their child. And...do all these parents end up as Schedule 1 offenders..loose jobs in teaching/caring etc....? That cannot be a good thing.