

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Andrew M Fraser

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 opposed

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**

Loving disciplinary proportional smacking is, at times, necessary to keep children on the right path to becoming a thoughtful, responsible member of society. This is not assault. To ban it would criminalise loving parents.

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

Yes (if so, please explain below)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

The aims of the proposal are mistaken in that loving discipline by parents is not assault. Thought should be taken about how to help children whose parents don't love or care for them or who don't know how to discipline proportionally. This bill is not appropriate.

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?

Again, loving physical disciplining of children, when proportional, is part of the upbringing necessary, at times, to prevent wrongdoing and anti-social behaviour developing. This is for the child's good in developing good character.

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?

The main risk would be, as is often now the case, of children who run wild and have no thought of other people - children or adults and who are not open to be reasoned with about right behaviour. Loving physical punishment is part of the process open to parents of teaching their children right from wrong and parents should not be criminalized for this. A ban would clog up the social work and police system and run the risk of real abuse being missed.

## 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**

The administration of this would involve extra police, social worker and court time and therefore expense and these are already overstretched.

## 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?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response:**

It would have an added and disproportionate cost due to all the extra people and time involved. Socially, it would increase the proportion of self-willed and selfish children, adolescents and eventually adults who would not have learned unselfish behaviour towards others.

## Page 15: General

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

The public are not in favour of an outright smacking ban as the 2014 ComRes poll found.  
It is bad for society in general when children are not properly disciplined.  
There is a big difference between loving discipline involving smacking and assault.  
It is not the place of the state to regulate how parents should bring up their children.