

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am opposed because it would penalise & make criminals of good, loving parents who do not BEAT their children, just firmly chastise them as means of keeping them from dangerous or hurtful behaviour.

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

Children can be protected by applying present laws & applying common sense to each situation.

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?

I don't think there would be any advantage. On the contrary, children would be deprived of a means of discipline which, if properly applied, would form their characters in a positive way.

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?

This law would be yet another attempt of the government to interfere in family life. Laws already exist to protect children from assault, which is no word to describe a lovingly applied smack. Children need to be taught right from wrong & SOMETIMES they will only learn by receiving physical punishment. This law will increase the burden on social workers, who have enough to do dealing with real cases of child abuse.

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 increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

I would hope that those responsible for applying the law would reject "frivolous" cases, but there is bound to be some time wasted on such cases, with inevitable cost.

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?

Negative

Please explain the reasons for your response

I fail to see the connection.

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 is bound to have an economic impact; it will certainly have a social impact when persistently naughty children fail to respond to other sanctions & physical punishment is illegal.

Page 15: General

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

The state should not be telling parents how to bring up their children. This is not Communist Russia. What effect did the ban on smacking have on children in Sweden? Children became more aggressive towards their peers. Please don't even consider this wrong-headed proposal.