

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Mr Donald Nicholson

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 believe that parents in a loving, healthy family unit are the best people to look after their children without unnecessary interference from the state.

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 law already exists to protect children from assault. A corrective smack given by a loving parent is not an assault.

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?

There are none unless you start from the misconceived position of thinking that parents are unfit to bring up their children to know right from wrong.

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?

Loving parents (the vast majority in society) would be immediately criminalised, the state would assume a 'big brother' role in families and the already stretched social work and police resources would be stretched even further. The potential cost of this bill and how it would work in practice should be explained clearly, there is no extra money for anything so other key areas of social work and police services are going to fail.

## 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**

This is an unfair and ambiguous question - it is not for the layman to answer, but the proposer to explain. I have put significant increase because if it is to run alongside the other protective services it will entail and additional 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**

It will have a huge negative impact on family life.

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

Yes, abandon it now.

## 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:**

I have already commented on this. What environmental effect is envisaged??

## Page 15: General

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

Not sure why this is coming, perhaps a publicity stunt? Please refer to the recent ComRes poll for what the public actually think of it. Unfortunately Scotland seems to be bent on destroying the family unit and the very children that you say you wish to protect. Children are not daft and they know when they are wrong and understand why they are scolded or occasionally smacked, we are not talking about administrating pain, rather loving correction. That is not assault, and I have never heard a policeman describe it as such.