

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Dr John Gordon

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**

The family is a natural unit in society with its own structure and discipline. Attempts to control family relationships through government legislation, based in philosophical opinions of an academic elite about what is acceptable, are a recipe for tyranny by the state. Sooner or later there would be a backlash against such intrusion. The law as it stands is sufficient. And already there is far less violence against children than there used to be.

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I do not agree with the aims of the proposal.

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?

None overall.

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?

It would threaten the freedom of families.

Good parents could be criminalised.

It would create insecurity in some children by undermining natural, authentic parental authority.

## 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**

Dealing with trivial complains would add to costs.

## 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?

Slightly negative

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

There are natural objections to government telling us, without any popular mandate, what is acceptable. (A ComRes poll in 2014 found that 65% of adults said it is sometimes necessary for a parent to smack a naughty child.)

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

No.

## 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:**

People will still smack their children sometimes, and if there are complaints there will be resentment.

## Page 15: General

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

There is no measure of compassion, empathy, authenticity, truth and love in the families studied in the papers quoted. This is because there is no quantitative measure for such qualities. These, however, are the values that prove the difference between child abuse and loving parental discipline.