

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

L. Pardoe

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

Children deserve full protection and respect. They go hand in hand. I would not strike an adult or accept being struck by another - so there can be no argument to state this is acceptable for a child, who is more vulnerable and unable to defend themselves. I understand differences between taps, slaps, striking and hitting and I also understand this is a weak argument for any adult to use who can be stressed, frustrated and hit out in any of those ways. The message is still that a child should accept an adult / their caregiver striking them. I disagree fully.

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

I think clarity is required and can't think of a way of this being more clearly stated. I also think parents and carers who do believe it is okay to slap a child should be given respectful guidance. Most will see it as a way of disciplining, not abusing and would be horrified to think they could be accused of abuse.

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?

Children would be clear about what is acceptable and not be confused by the 'whom' as would adults. The likelihood of abusive actions (physically) would be reduced dramatically. It shows respect for all of us as humans and shows a far better mentoring of their experiences, shaping futures to come. Children would be clearer on when to speak up for their rights. Children would feel safe and cared for.

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?

I can't think of disadvantages.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Broadly cost-neutral

Please explain the reasons for your response

I have no foundation in understanding financial impact, therefore cannot comment one way or another with confidence. Court cases would be clear cut, which should eliminate time. Projects around 'how to discipline without smacking / other ways of guiding our children' may be required, especially where matters progress. Advertising would be required. Positive changes should result in children thriving more if relationships do not rely upon physical punishment, which could be cost effective in terms of avoiding more costly interventions and solutions for problems that grow over the years as this is often replicated in behaviour in

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

other settings (it's okay to hit out if you are stronger, they are younger / smaller or more submissive than you).

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

Generally positive in the same way as you would expect for all sectors of society where more respect is shown.

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

Work with groups where culturally children are less respected or physical chastisement is seen to be natural. Work with those who are already vulnerable themselves and find self control very difficult.

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?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response:

It is adding to a common belief already in Scotland. Smacking / hitting children is not acceptable. This is about evening things out, not starting from scratch.

Page 15: General

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

Overdue - so very happy to see it proposed now. Mother of 5, former nurse, with "speciality in care of the mentally handicapped", formerly working in Children Centre and Education as Early Years Practitioner and ASN support. Member of many groups with the care and well-being of children and community at the heart. Volunteer - and Parent of 5 / aunt to 5 and much more. Treating children with full respect is core to how we handle ourselves too.