

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Janet Weir

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**

I have witnessed both professionally and personally the damage caused by parents/carers using physical punishment on children and young people. In my experience the effects lead to children and young people using violence as a coping strategy, and as a way of dealing and/or solving problems. Unfortunately, the use of violence by children and young people can often lead to care relationships breaking down, placement moves (if in care) and incarceration, all of which have long term implications for them.

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**

Because I believe that only laws would have an impact on this type of behaviour.

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?

- 1) Equal rights to adults.
- 2) Less assaults on them, especially over time.
- 3) Change in culture and attitude from Scots, especially over time.
- 4) Less services required to deal with the effects of parental abuse and attachment..... mental health.

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?

Maybe more referrals to social work services, however this maybe counteracted by less need in other service areas such as mental health.

## 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**

As stated in Q4. There maybe an increase in social work referrals especially initially.

## 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)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I cannot see an impact on these groups.

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

N/A in my view.

## 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:**

The Bill would become part of children's services like GIRFEC, so the main impact would be on everyday practice of staff and named persons.

## Page 15: General

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

Just to say I am pleased to see this being proposed. I think it is another brave piece of legislation, which is aiming to change our culture for the better.