

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

In my opinion, any form of physical punishment on a child is assault. I think it is too easy for adults to physically punish i.e. assault children due to their smaller, weaker, non-adult status. Adults do not have the right to physically assault a child's body and the damage that can be caused to them in doing so whether mentally, emotionally or, indeed, physically, is unthinkable and upsetting. I also think it is impossible to place the marginal line as to what constitutes a 'simple physical punishment' and what is deemed as physical harm. The answer is that there is no way of placing a line between each. So why take the risk? Equal protection from assault would make it clear cut that no child should be physically assaulted under any circumstances whatsoever. The absence of this Protection will only continue to make it acceptable to 'smack' by parents and others. You wouldn't smack an annoying work colleague so why should you be allowed to do it to a child.

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

Do not know enough about it.

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?

As I mentioned in previous question, it would mean there could be no blurred lines between harmful assault and what some deem as innocent and acceptable physical punishment. All children should be protected to the greatest degree possible.

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 suppose this could be in the cases of bad or misconstrued judgement by others. Perhaps where an adult has genuinely and accidentally hurt a child with absolutely no intention to harm or physically assault but who is then accused of doing same.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I don't know enough about this aspect.

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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

How could standing up for the protection from physical assault of children be anything other than positive?

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

I don't know anything about this.

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?

Unsure

Page 15: General

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

No Response