

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Eleanor Murray

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

There is no justification for assault. As a parent, yes I feel angry at my children at times and sometimes I feel aggressive towards them. This does not justify an assault. I have a range of sanctions available to me and by sticking to these my children learn when they have crossed a line. They learn that their actions have consequences and they do not learn to be aggressive themselves. I have looked after other people's children both as a friend and professionally and even those who have been brought up with violence will respond to sanctions, for example, we will leave immediately, I will pull over and we will sit in the car until they behave, no treats, an early night, time out in their room and so on. Other adults can insight angry feelings too but I while I might feel like punching someone sometimes I don't - I know I shouldn't and that there will be consequences and I don't. I talk, I discuss, I argue but I do not lash out. We can all learn to raise our children in a gentler way, to talk to them and reason with them so they understand the rules.

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

It is hard to change behaviour and this needs a bill so everyone is clear that it is no longer acceptable and that there will be consequences.

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?

We will produce a gentler nation, we will remove all legitimacy towards violence, we will learn to negotiate, to set boundaries, to accept consequences, we will all be better for it. We will also make it easier to intervene when a child is at risk - we will all be clear about what is and is not acceptable.

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?

none

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

It is hard to put a price on this, particularly as the benefit is over a long period of time.

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

Rights are rights,

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

No Response

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 long term positive effects encourage sustainability. Violence has a negative impact on physical and mental health which has a cost to society. Removing violence will in the long term save money - less pressure on the NHS, on schools, on youth work, on criminal justice.

Page 15: General

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

No Response