

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Brian Kerr

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**

Of all the reasons expressed in the consultation paper, the one that most impressed me is the number of other countries who have successfully made this change. We in Scotland must catch up! I find the notion of "equal protection" very persuasive; the opposite, (that children can be physically punished, but adults cant) is quite shocking, expressed in this way.

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**

This way will send out a strong message- there may be very few prosecutions, if any-and it may be difficult to enforce and monitor but the message will be loud and clear. It will be part of a process of improvement in Child protection and child care. It should not be seen in isolation.

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?

The major benefit would be a clear statement from government that Children should not be abused and beaten under the guise of discipline and 'firm handling'.  
I am not sure that I understand this question correctly.

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 am unable to think of any.  
The proposal may be criticized on the basis that it is an interference into the privacy of family life.

## 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**

The implementation of this legislation will be through existing systems of family support, education, and childcare. Although all of these are significantly under-resourced just now, I cannot see how this legislation should make that significantly worse. The legislation is essentially about attitude change, -a long term process.

## 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**

I believe this change will have positive benefits for everyone

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

I cant envisage any negative impact

## 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:**

See previous answers

## Page 15: General

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

No