

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Physical punishment has shown to damage the psychological wellbeing of children, which can lead to further problems down the line, and could exacerbate cruelty in future e.g. criminal behaviour

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

I think that it's really important for parents to know about the implications of physical punishment, which will act as a deterrent anyway, but it's also important for it to become an offence. Perhaps resources should be allocated to raise awareness of the law and why it exists (maybe include it as a leaflet in baby boxes?)

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?

Psychological wellbeing - children become more confident when positive reinforcement is used rather than physical punishment.

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?

Parents might not know how to teach children what actions are unacceptable, so information should be provided on this. Again, perhaps this should be included in baby boxes as an easy way of reaching all new parents. This should also be included in parenting classes.

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

More confident individuals are more likely to succeed in school, because they're not afraid of asking for help, which leads to better life chances. Providing information on alternatives to physical punishment for parents should have a relatively minimal cost.

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 think the proposed bill will have an equally positive impact on all groups, not just the ones mentioned.

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:

Information on alternatives to punishment, as long as it is made easily available to all new parents, should mean that regardless of your socioeconomic status, that you have what you need to raise your child without violence.

Page 15: General

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

I think this is a long overdue bill and it will benefit the lives of countless children without it even being recognised.