

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

A simple smack rarely used can be effective. This does NOT mean that I support regular or excessive smacking.

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

Yes (if so, please explain below)

Please explain the reasons for your response

Proper support for parents especially those who have not had a good parenting experience. However my response should NOT be taken as support for the aim of stopping occasional smacking.

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?

This question is difficult to understand and is extremely loaded equating assault with a smack. If smacking equals assault this will inevitably criminalise parents. More disadvantage than advantage.

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?

Criminalizing parents!

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Significant increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

Who investigates the "assault" and how is this dealt with by police, procurator fiscal and courts without significant costs including the cost to other criminal investigations by withdrawal of resources.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am unsure!

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

Unsure of 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?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Considerable social impact on non-violent parents and families if very occasional smack is equated with assault.

Page 15: General

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

I am a grandparent who can remember two occasions of being smacked as a child and have smacked two of my three children on a couple of occasions. We are an extremely close and happy family. I abhor the fact that this is equated with beating and assault!! I'm also concerned with the unintended consequences of law in this area that could lead to far more disastrous emotional punishment.