

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am concerned that the prohibition of ALL physical punishment might lead to more verbal or psychological methods being used to chastise children. I do not condone excessive physical punishment, but sometimes a "light snack" could be preferable to prolonged emotional "assault" (to use the consultation's word). Also, some physical contact is not always punishment. If a child is about to injure themselves e.g. put their fingers in an electrical socket, it might be preferable to give the child a physical distraction as a sense of urgency to protect them. It's difficult to examine in writing. These are one-off situations, with no intention to punish, but to protect.

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

Unsure

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?

No Response

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?

In my view, as previously written, not all physical contact has the motivation of punishment, but may be seen as protecting the child.

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

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?

Negative

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

In some religions, the right to discount the child is part of the faith. This does not permit abusive contact.

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

I can't see how any wording would protect those from a religious background that would allow them to safely practise their faith. I doubt if any faith would condone abuse.

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:

I can't see any impact on environmental nor economic factors. Socially, I have concerns. Instead of creating a legal framework, more resources should be put in to parenting support. This would include investment in Health Visitors and others that would support families in their formative years.

Page 15: General

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

No Response