

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

the term "justifiable abuse" is abhorrent. no one should be abused and there is no justification - children least of all should be subjected to violence from those who are supposed to care for them. there is no need and no benefit. discipline means to discipline - to show and teach - not to smack and abuse. it needs to be made clear that this may have been ok in the past but its not ok now. We did away with the belt in schools and now we think its archaic - smacking children should be the same.

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**

If its not law it wont be respected - parents need to know that this isn't acceptable or normal.

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?

Parents will understand that this isn't normal behaviour - we protect children by banning smoking in cars but we wont protect them from being hit?!! children need to be protected by law

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?

it would be unfortunate to fill the criminal justice system with parents who have given a small warning tap to their kids - whilst that's not ok filling our courts with every person who breaks this law in a 'minor' way would be unhelpful. also how would it be enforced? a parent and a young child - the young child cant exactly report their 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?

Some increase in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

more prosecutions and people in the legal system

## 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**

race, religion and belief - I guess some religion and cultures are more likely to hit their kids and seen as culturally acceptable? but not really sure it has much to do with the others

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

don't know - needs to be well communicated so everyone understands the new law

## 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

## Page 15: General

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

perhaps a campaign that teaches people no to hit their children is needs with this. teaching parents better methods of discipline for example.