

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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 firmly believe that parents should have the decision regarding how to discipline their children. Allowing parents to smack their children to correct misbehaviour is very different from protecting children from abuse and common sense can and does prevail in the majority of cases. Parents who use excessive or damaging force to discipline their children should face the full force of the law in my opinion.....but a parent who decided to smack their child on the bottom or hand using reasonable force should not fear a 'big brother' society or government. Why should a government decide what is right for individuals? Be careful when interpreting data from children who believe they have been 'harmed' by a parent smacking them.....very few children actually want to be smacked at the time (I was one of them when I was younger).....but as a parent now, I can see why it was necessary and reasonable of my parents.

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?

Not advantages..can see disadvantages particularly for parents who might now find that their children now declare their 'rights' to not be smacked. As a teacher this is something that I strongly feel will happen especially with pupils who already display challenging and aggressive behaviour.

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?

Children, developmentally, are NOT the same as adults and therefore do need to be taught what is and what isn't appropriate behaviour. Parents can choose not to smack their children.....that is their choice. But parents who choose to smack will not have their choice of discipline. Few parents smack all the time....again, as a teacher, I understand about modulation and using different strategies at different times (i.e. sometimes I will raise my voice, other times I go quiet). The same is true with disciplining my children.

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

monitoring and court system costs for parents who choose to smack their child(ren)

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

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

N/A

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:

The costs (and rationale) will be too prohibitive and therefore I am opposed.

Page 15: General

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

N/A