

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Children should be protected at least as much as adults. There is evidence of the harm done to children by physical punishment.

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**

Children should have the same protection in law as adults. Legislation makes it clear that children must not be physically punished - there is no room for argument. It also shows that we as a country support the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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?

- (a) it makes clear to parents that any physical punishment is wrong.
- (b) that should reduce the risk of a child being physically harmed,
- (c) and should reduce the risk of psychological harm.

It will tell children that they are as protected as adults - that as human beings they are as important.

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?

None.

## 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**

I can see that in the short term there might be some increase in cost because of the need to monitor observance of the law and show parents there are alternatives to physical punishment, but I think that in the long term there will be savings for the health service if children do not need treatment for injuries, whether physical or mental.

## 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**

Legislating for equal protection for children will mean parents cannot claim that they must punish their child physically because of their (the parents') status, e.g. their religion.

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

I am not sure that I can see what negative impact there would be other than people wanting to retain rights to punish children physically.

## 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:**

I see nothing sustainable about physical punishment of children.

## Page 15: General

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

*No Response*