

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially 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

Generally I fully agree that physical punishment does not work. I believe it removes the focus away from the lesson you are trying to teach and is a bad example to set to children. It could have a traumatic effect on a child too. However There are a very few occasions e.g. A child running out into a road and nearly being hit by a car, where a youngish child cannot adequately understand or immediately have the danger explained to them, a quick smack on the bottom may be the only way to quickly show them how important it is to never do this again. If smacks were overused this would not have the desired effect but it used very occasionally in a situation which happens very quickly and need to teach the child about danger it could be in child's best interest. Also I believe child adult relationship is different from that if two adults. even with the patience of a saint sometimes an adult at home with young children all day might eventually loose their temper, a child who has been winding up their carer all day needs to know that people have limits they also need to respect! I think it would be an unusual for an adult to receive such constant winding up by another adult e.g. in a work place, and if they did that behaviour by the other person would be considered bullying/ harassment!

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

More education e.g. Parenting classes for parents to help with learning alternative strategies. Better support, including financial, for full time stay at home parents. These would have a more positive impact than legislating to turn well meaning parents at the end of their tether into criminals.

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?

Remove the gray area of people who are essentially battering their kids using the defence that it is resonable punishment.

Highlight to the general public physical punishment does not work and is not a acceptable.

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?

See previous answer- criminalising well meaning parents.
As we were smacked as children it May take more than one generation to unwind these habits.
There are some dangerous situations (e.g. Child running in road) where parents were afraid to discipline children adequately could lead to children getting injured etc.

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

Some prosecutions in short term, maybe children taken into care? Increased costs. Long term better mental health Equals decreased cost

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?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response

Covers all strata of society

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?

Yes

Page 15: General

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

Legislation is a blunt tool.
Education is better.