

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I am a parent of 2 grown up sons now 23 and 25 and I am also a foster carer. The children I have fostered have all had very traumatic pasts and exhibit very distressing and challenging behaviours as a result of that trauma. My own boys were typical boisterous boys when they were younger. As a parent I didn't believe in physical punishment of children. I have always believed that children should have the same rights and respect as others in society. My fostered children require very skilled everyday parenting, and we need the ability to de-escalate and calm situations. Foster carers are not allowed to use physical chastisement which is absolutely right. Other children should have the same protection. I believe a shift is already occurring in society, and that support from the Scottish Government in extending these protections to all children will further strengthen that shift to more positive relationships between parents (and other adults) and children. In the long run it will help lead to a society where long term solutions are sought, not just quick "fixes" which don't actually solve anything just postpone problems for later as children don't learn to be autonomous if they are controlled by threats or actual physical chastisement.

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?

Children would have their basic human rights protected the same as everyone else.

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?

People may need ideas on how to deal with children when their solution to problematic behaviour has been to smack a child.
This could be addressed by public information films or parent friendly advice on alternatives (without judgement, from health visitors, nurseries and schools)

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

There may be a cost training health and educational staff in order to help give information to parents.

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

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

No Response

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?

I'm very glad that this is being addressed in our parliament. Thank you