

Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)

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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Scottish Police Federation

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

We believe that children deserve the same protection in law as adults, arguably more. Evidence suggests that children who are subjected to physical punishment are more likely themselves to use violence. We do not believe that removing the statutory defence will result in a significant increase in the prosecution of parents and carers.

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

The only way in which the statutory defence can be removed is a change to the law.

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?

Child Protection forms a significant part of the Police Service of Scotland's work and there are therefore extensive resources deployed to this area of policing across all geographical areas of Scotland. The Bill will provide greater protection to our children and convey to society that the physical punishment of children is not acceptable. In the longer term evidence suggests that it may reduce violence and bullying on and by our children.

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?

If carefully and appropriately managed we do not consider that there are any significant disadvantages.

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

In terms of Policing the Bill will not change the police response or resources deployed to investigate any report of assault on a child therefore this area should be cost neutral. There may be some cost associated with an information and education campaign designed to highlight the changes being made.

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

If appropriately managed the impact on these protected groups should be neutral, key to this is information and where necessary education.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

The Bill proposes a minor change in law to remove a statutory defence for certain groups, if properly managed it should not have a disproportionate impact in any area.

Page 15: General

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

No Response