

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Pippa Plevin

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

Hitting children is not acceptable even if you are a parent. It is never about teaching children and makes violence the norm.

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

It might not be strictly enforceable but will send a message that may stop parents assaulting their kids. If the violence escalates then the excuse cannot be "it's just a smack". They will be prosecuted, so has to be backed up by 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?

Parents will have to interact properly without resorting to violence. Would they hit their partner? No of course not, they have to conduct themselves as grown ups and deal with disagreements. It will make for a better child/parent relationship and not foster belief that violence of any sort is 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?

difficult to enforce if violence is in own home. "Nanny state" criticism as usual. Doesn't mean you can't try. Will at least mean there may be a dialogue about it.

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

Depends how it is enforced but there is already some legislation in place for this so may be more convictions than previously. Hopefully instead of that there is education for parents instead so they can understand better ways to deal with conflict.

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

Can only help, noone wants a negative violent atmosphere with children

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

Workshops and education on what is trying to be achieved here.

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:

not sure if this is a valid question in this context. But it will have a social impact hopefully to ensure children do not grow up in fear of being hit.

Page 15: General

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

It is way overdue, should have been implemented years ago. But in doing so it needs to be handled much better than the Named person legislation so that you have parents onside with this and don't think it is being imposed on them. Stirred up no doubt by the right wing press to make out it is a "Nanny State" that is doing this. A national debate on why this is necessary and the damaging effect violence of any sort has on children. When parents are found to be in this situation there needs to be education for them on positive parenting so they do not have to resort to hitting in future. They must not be demonised but shown there is a better way.