

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Deirdre O' Reilly

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 opposed

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 fully opposed to this proposed legislation. REASONS i] I do not think that such a bill is necessary -- I believe that some physical correction is acceptable in family life -- the bill would unnecessarily criminalise parents who administer such reasonable physical correction. ii] The resources which would be used to establish and run this proposal would, in my opinion, be better used to tackle genuine child abuse. to use finances on this bill would mean less finance for genuine abuse situations.

Q2. Could the aims of the proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

i] The law already protects children from physical assault. This bill is not necessary. To smack a child is very different from serious physical assault.

ii] To ban smacking would result in scarce social work resources being diverted to deal with trivial complaints rather than dealing with serious cases of abuse.

iii] The proposed legislation undermines parental authority and [in my opinion] what are acceptable methods of discipline.

Page 11: Financial implications

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

No Response

Page 15: General

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

Public opinion is against a ban on smacking. A ComRes Poll from 2014, found that when those interviewed were asked " Do you agree or disagree that it is sometimes necessary for a parent to smack a naughty child? ", 65 % of those interviewed responded that they agreed with smacking, 13% said that they did not know and only 22% disagreed with smacking.
http://www.comresglobal.com/wp-content/themes/comres/poll/Parenting_Survey_3rd_February_2014.pdf