

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

Any assault is clearly wrong. Appropriate physical punishment is a totally different thing. I received it as a child and it did me good. The two should not be mixed up or put in the same breath.

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

Focus on stopping real abuse and assault cases which abound and are hard to deal with - eg cases like the very very sad Liam Fee case - rather than wasting time on things like this which will hamper good parenting.

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?

None

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?

It would criminalise the appropriate and measured smacking of children that is a help to many families - parents and children.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Significant increase in cost

Please explain the reasons for your response

The bill is not needed and will just take up time and efforts that could be better spent on the real problems of poor children in Scotland - so the opportunity cost of this is great.

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?

Negative

Please explain the reasons for your response

For Christians the bible teaches appropriate smacking is what should be used to teach children - this bill would discriminate against Christians therefore. Is that the real motive for it one wonders? In that it limits what a parent can do to train a child what the limits of behaviour are it also adversely impacts pregnant mothers.

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

Yes - if the bill is dropped

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

Please explain the reasons for your response:

As noted spending time on this bill will divert time from tackling many of our other social problems - visit a big housing scheme and you will see many things that need addressed.

Page 15: General

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

Our nation has many problems - drugs, alcoholism, real child abuse to name a few - tackling them would be much more worthwhile than this idea.