

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

David Ashford

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

It is beyond belief that the reputation of Scotland worldwide is still tarnished by allowing 'justifiable assault' to be a defence when dealing with children and young people. John Finnie's bill must be enacted without any further delay. Anyone in opposition should be exposed to the full force of Scottish society's sickening revulsion and reminded that violence begets violence. To smack a child not only severely damages her or his relationship with the adult but it should be made an offence of bullying and prosecuted accordingly.

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

No

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?

Equal protection from assault would give children the same entitlement to basic human rights. Scotland would no longer be regarded as a nation of unintelligent adults too lazy to banish the defence of 'justifiable assault' in this day and age.

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?

None whatsoever.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Broadly cost-neutral

Please explain the reasons for your response

I can see no reason why any costs should be incurred as a result of the bill being enacted.

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

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

It stands to reason that all such groups will benefit from enactment of the Bill.

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

There will be no such 'negative impact'.

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:

Because it is so straightforward and an obvious path to basic civilised decency.

Page 15: General

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

Just congratulations and very best wishes to John Finnie MSP for introducing the Bill which I am sure will be successful knowing, as I do, that the vast majority of Scotland's people will not countenance anything less than unconditional enactment of it.