

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I occasionally slapped my children on the bottom or legs if they had, in my judgement, been very naughty. This was in the late '80s and early '90s. I had had similar punishment from my parents and I was, occasionally, belted at school. Whilst in no case was it extreme punishment as these things went. It was unthinking as in those days it was considered by most people to be normal. In later life and with changing mores I have come to the conclusion that physical punishment is unacceptable. I particularly do not understand why children should be excepted from the protection from physical assault that adults have.

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?

I expect that any physical punishment will cause some mental scars. These will be avoided and children, if properly disciplined in an alternative way, should be happier and better behaved.

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 will be difficult for some adults to consider alternative forms of discipline. The slap is easy. Punishing a child without physical blows requires more thought and self 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?

Some increase in cost

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I think that education of adults and support for them to enable them to discipline children without physicality will probably need some pump priming.

## 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?

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

I guess that certain groups may claim exemption, but I don't know which. In any event I do not think that exemption should be given.

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

I don't know.

## 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:**

I don't think there should be more ongoing cost to change this behaviour than changing any other behaviour.

## Page 15: General

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

No.