

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I do not believe this is a problem in society. I believe it is yet another attempt to interfere in family life. I believe it will criminalise parents who are otherwise law abiding. Children are currently protected from violence and I take issue with physical punishment being referred to as "assault". It is likely to divert limited resources away from situations where intervention is required.

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

I do not have sympathy with the aims so I if there is ever a problem with excessive force being used it could be dealt with by social work.

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. They are children and not adults. Sitting on the naughty step is not something you would do to an adult That does not make it inappropriate for children.

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?

Criminalising otherwise law abiding parents.
Considerable expense and diversion of scarce resources from where they are most needed.
Setting parents and children against each other.

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

This would create a snoopers charter and would have significant costs in administration .

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

Put yet more pressure on individuals who are already stressed.

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

Drop the entire Bill.

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:

It is self evident that it would have a significant economic and social impact.

Page 15: General

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

The more law we have the less happy we are as a society.
The bias evident in this consultation does not inspire confidence if it ever were to become law.
I do not sense a need for this legislation.
It appears to be more a hobby horse of certain individuals and is a waste of my money.