

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

As set out clearly in the consultation paper, physical punishment has been shown to have a long term adverse impact on children, so we should work to eliminate it and speed up the cultural shift for the good of all our children.

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

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

Without legal backup for the change, the cultural shift will continue to be slow. Since we know swifter change will be beneficial, we should do all we can to speed it up.

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 think the consultation paper lays out the advantages better than I can here. For me, the main advantage is in speeding up the cultural shift towards bringing up children in a more positive manner.

To be blunt: last year, I took my new puppy to dog training classes. At those classes, we were told to train using positive reinforcement, because punishment doesn't work. That's for dogs. But if I were to strike a child as punishment, that's okay? I don't think so.

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 can see resistance, and accusations of meddling in family life. But as this will be to *prevent children from suffering from physical harm*, I don't really see that as relevant.

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

Especially initially, I agree there would be extra referrals to child services and/or the police etc, but again, since this is to improve the lives of children, I'd suggest its a price worth paying.

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?

Slightly positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

As the paper lays out, this is likely to increase equality as punishment is likely to be (intentionally or otherwise) skewed more towards certain groups of children. (i.e. I can imagine some people physically punishing a young boy to "toughen him up").

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

I don't think there would be a 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:

The worst case scenario is that child services are inundated with referrals which require significant resources to deal with. But this would be to deal with cases of child harm - bringing this into the open is a good thing, not a bad thing.

Page 15: General

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

I fully support this and think it will make Scotland a better place to raise children.