

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Please explain the reasons for your response

When I was growing up, it was normal for parents to smack children, but I think it may harm the trust children have in their parents, and it certainly makes it hypocritical and illogical to tell children they shouldn't hit each other while having no explanation as to why it's alright for an adult who loves them to hit them. If it's wrong for people to hit each other than that's true regardless of the age of the person being hit. I know that being a parent can be very difficult, but when I had a child, I was determined not to smack and so we didn't use physical punishments and I think it's benefited all of us.

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

I don't see there's any other way to give children the same protection from assault as adults.

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?

Well, obviously, it would give children greater protection from assault. Indirectly, I think it might help parents learn to deal with their anger in better ways, and maybe it would lead to better verbal communication between parents and children. I suspect it might also lead to those children, when they grow up, being less likely to hit others instead of communicating verbally.

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'm sure that some people will complain that it infringes parents' rights, but I don't accept that as I don't think parents should have the right to harm their child. Some people may also worry that this would be used to unfairly take children away from their parents. I trust that this will not be the case.

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

If it stops children from being hit badly, it could reduce costs to the NHS. On the other hand, if it makes child protection easier, it's possible that more children will be taken into care, which would increase costs to the care system. However, in the long-term I think it will improve mental and physical health in Scotland. It's really very difficult to estimate the costs and savings involved in all of that.

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

Please explain the reasons for your response

It will be very positive for young people.

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

I don't anticipate there being any negative impacts.

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 Bill requires people to stop doing something harmful; this does not involve any economic or environmental costs. I believe it would have a beneficial social impact.

Page 15: General

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

No Response