

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response

I support it in principle but I have not read the specific bill and therefore feel my answer is merely a vague opinion on what is an incredibly complex issue.

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

Unsure

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?

Accountability and the ability to pursue the matter in courts where all individuals present have equal rights and access to representation and scrutiny.

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?

Could this new bill put extra strain on the judicial system? Are there measures in place that allow cases to be settled outside of court? what measures are in place for making sure the child in question is placed in better and safer care following an incident of abuse? Could this put extra strain on an already overburdened social care system that is currently looking and even more cut?

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

the legal system doesn't run for free for anyone unfortunately.

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

I would like to say positive but as I mentioned I haven't read the bill and feel it would be unfair to vote heavily in favour for it, although I do believe in the principle of the Bill.

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

An extra layer of legal proceedings could add more delays to the protection of the child which is the number 1 priority in this matter. However I could be wrong.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response:

I would like to say yes but in practice we all know that this would be very difficult to determine and deliver

Page 15: General

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

No Response