

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.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

I can still remember corporal punishment at school when teachers would use belt/ruler/hand. My mother used it against me. It didn't make me obedient, it made me fearful & resentful even now. For that reason I never used it on my own children & I see the difference it has made to their confidence & esteem.

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

What other way is there that would indicate to a parent that they should respect & nurture? Some parents believe they are the ultimate authority in their child's life despite being detrimental to that child growing mentally.

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?

It sends a very clear signal to those who do not believe 'a wee smack' is harmful but instead is good for discipline.

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?

Parents do make mistakes & might use a smack without thinking their actions through. There is also societal pressure from the older generation who believe all of today's problems stem from a lack of being 'belted'.

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 you take into account the costs of treating adults still suffering from what they experienced as children & compare the cost of prosecution or fines.

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

If you are fearful of your parent using physical forms of punishment then you are fearful of confiding in them in case it leads to lashing out. Plus, I have depression & anxiety over what my mother did, I won't be the only one.

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

No Response

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:

Any social impact would be on the positive side.

Page 15: General

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

No Response