

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 am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Eileen McCann

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

There should be no reason why an adult should physically punish a child. Allowing any level of punishment will make enforcement difficult, on no basis would any level of physical punishment be acceptable. Apart from the influence that if you can't get your way, it's acceptable to use force.

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

For lawmakers and enforcers this needs to be clear.

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?

The change of mindset in adults. That we can no longer use force and we have to approach challenging behaviour differently. We also have to be role models of good behaviour. It is unconscionable that we can allow physical punishment on the weakest in our society. There is always a better way.

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?

It will take time and education on alternate strategies. This shouldn't be forgotten. Many people who hit or restrain children do it for what they believe are good reasons. We should enact the legislation but also teach adults how to manage conflict and disagreements. Its starts early. I speak as a mother and a grandmother..

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

I don't know enough about the current costs, I would imagine there may be some increase in cost due to enforcement and training. Hopefully in time we would see less violence in children, teenagers and young adults.

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

This should be part of an overall approach to physical punishment and violence across the board. This goes in line with children having rights on their own, outwith the responsibilities of the parents/carers. This is an important signal that physical approaches are not acceptable in this society.

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

I can't see a negative impact, I may not have enough experience in this area

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:

Apart from a potential increase in legal cases against adults I can't see that this will be unsustainable - but even if it is it is necessary, and hopefully would ameliorate in time.

Page 15: General

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

It is the right thing to do and we should do it now. We do need to support parents and carers and that should be a key part of the strategy.