

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Susan FG Forde and Iain W D Forde

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

I have always thought it shocking that every other group - soldiers, sailors, prisoners, adults, children in school etc etc - is protected from assault, but children are not. As a teacher I was against use of the belt, and saw it abolished. The very language of "justifiable ASSAULT" reveals the ugly truth. Hitting a child is morally wrong; it sends the wrong message; it does not achieve the desired effect; it causes harm, especially to the child, but also to the perpetrator. (It is said the the banning of bear-baiting was not just for the harm it did to the bear but for the damage it did to the spectators)

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

A Bill in the Scottish Parliament is the right place (and long overdue)

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 is the right thing to do: to give children equal protection - they should have greater protection.

Advantages:

It will protect children, save them from pain, distress at the time, and save them and their children from psychological and mental distress in later life.

It will support parents in finding better ways to model their children's behaviour in ways that will benefit the children.

It will give children a good example to follow.

It would be good for children to have the human right to be protected from assault, rather than suffer under a legal system that actually "justifies" assaulting children, to whom we have a duty of care and love.

("Justified assault", especially in the context of adult v child, is clearly a contradiction in terms, and should probably fall on that point.)

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?

There are no "disadvantages". Children should not be PUNISHED physically.

Evidence from other countries which have a more appropriate approach to children is that it is a win win. (Psychological harm should also be discouraged in every way possible)

Page 11: Financial implications

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

Significant reduction in cost

Q5. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

Please explain the reasons for your response

The savings in wellbeing for children, parents, society in general of having a better society with proper care and love for children are immense. Savings from having to pay for the social costs resulting from people being abused as children (by being assaulted legally by their parents/ carers) - ie poor educational achievement, poor mental health, perpetuation of violence, coarsening of attitudes, poor parenting for the next generation etc etc will also be immense. (But even if there were a cost it should be done anyway).

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

What's not to like? 'Protected groups' would wish to include children who also have race, disability, sex ...

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

Why should there be a negative effect on anyone if children are protected from assault by their parents/carers?
Which 'protected group' is going to be 'negatively impacted' by being encouraged to refrain from assaulting their children?
The proposed Bill is about minimising and avoiding abuse in the shape of physical assaults on children: that is the very overdue priority.

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:

There will NOT be a disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental (!!?) impact. Whatever it costs in MONEY will be recouped in financial savings over the long term (sustainable) benefits. The social, physical, mental benefits of increased well-being in children, and also adults, will be much greater. The safety and well-being of our children are paramount

Page 15: General

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

It is an excellent proposal, and all stops should be pulled out to get it through this time.
My husband supports everything in this response but as he shares this e-mail he cannot reply. Please add Iain WD Forde to this response