

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Olivier Chaligne

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

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 support the bill in the sense that children should be protected from the disproportionate use of physical punishment. If physical punishment has to be used, it should be only as a last resort and within constraint. In my personal experience if I was not behaving "correctly", I would receive a little slap on the butt after being warned a few times I was way out of line. I do not think I am worse off now as an adult. On the other hand, children need to be protected against disproportionate physical punishment. This needs to be defined.

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 think a bill in the Scottish Parliament would show a strong signal of the will to be progressive on the issue.

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?

I believe it would make situations clearer in cases of abuse from parents in the case of having a defined spectrum of what constitutes a "normal" punishment and an over use of force.

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 could be badly received by the general public in the sense it could be seen as intrusive. People could feel the government is trying to tell them how to raise their children.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

On the one hand, it would reduce the cost for social services in terms of duration of procedure but on the other hand it could raise the amount of cases having to be processed.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response

I cannot say.

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

If the aims and use of the bills are explained clearly I do not see why it would be negative.

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:

Some people may react at first seeing it as an intrusion into their family life but I do not see any long term negative effects.

Page 15: General

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

Nothing to add.