

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Peter E Ross

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

It is illegal for an adult to hit any other person except in self defence and even then it has to be proportionate. Hitting children who are unable to defend themselves against overwhelming force is unconscionable. Hitting children is an abuse of parental power and is indicative of a parents inability to control themselves never mind the child. I was hit many times as a child by both my parents and by school teachers and it certainly didn't do me any good, although some of my friends preferred this punishment from teachers to detention as it 'got it over and done with'. Being brutalised (hit) can often lead the victim to being brutal and so perpetuating violence in the family and in society as a whole. Violence against anyone should be made socially unacceptable and be punishable by law to promote a more stable, safe and peaceful society.

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

Social pressure alone is not adequate to end some parents hitting their children it needs the power of the law and to be recognised as a matter of justice.

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?

Children would not be subjected to violence by their parents and would therefore feel safer, more confident and have higher self-esteem. Parents would need to use reason to control/convince their children about their behaviour and everyone would have to rely on logic and reason as the way to manage difficult situations.

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?

Some parents would end up being prosecuted.

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

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

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:

Protecting children can not have limitation placed on it because of cost and the children will grow to be more stable and rounded citizens who cost society less.

Page 15: General

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

No Response