

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Euan Macpherson

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 opposed

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 surely astonishing to consider that the implementation of this proposal, in criminal law, risks criminalising thousands of loving parents. "A negative impact could be anticipated in terms of parents being criminalised" Your own words from the consultation paper seriously question if not condemn this proposal.

Q2. Could the aims of the proposal be better delivered in another way (without a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

We agree that no child should be assaulted, but to describe 'a smack on the back of the legs' as assault is preposterous.

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 very adequately legislates in this area with unreasonable punishment specified and treated as assault.

A child is not an adult and needs instruction in order to learn a smack by a parent is surely an appropriate 'last-resort' method to discipline a child that repeatedly disregards important advice, is stubbornly rebellious or disrespectful.

Page 11: Financial implications

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

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

No Response

Page 15: General

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

You will be aware that many of the public strongly opposes a ban on smacking. According to a 2014 COMRES poll, 65% of parents said it is sometimes necessary for a parent to smack a naughty child.... only 22% disagreed.

God has ordained the family as the safe environment where children are to be nurtured and admonished, christian or non-christian. I pray that you would respect that universal provision by withdrawing your private members bill.