

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 If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Mrs M B Kobylarska

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

I do believe that mild corporal punishment is not harmful to children and can be better than harsh words, sarcasm or depriving them of some treat etc, all of which are used as a means of alternative punishments. Many parents still resort to smacking. I would not like to see them criminalised for a few slaps on the hand or on the bottom. Mild smacking is usually quickly forgotten about by the child. It is not the same as beating which does cause resentment, often deep resentment, fear, anxiety and sometimes serious damage to the child's self esteem.

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?

I would point out that the law does protect, or is supposed to, protect children from assault. It allows for smacking and I don't see that mild smacking carried out by a loving parent can be classed as assault. On the other hand there are genuine cases of assault where children are in great danger in their own homes. Social workers need to concentrate on these. So often danger signs seem to be missed. I don't know how they would cope should there be numerous complaints from people who object to parents who discipline their children with a couple of smacks?

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?

It is still widely told that there is nothing wrong with smacking being an option for maintaining parental discipline. We do see many undisciplined children nowadays. Many parents just 'give in' to their children and it is almost as if it is the children who are ruling the parents. The Government should not interfere within the family when it comes to loving parental discipline. It would only make the child believe its parent was a criminal.