Consultation on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

About you
Individual

1 The Bill’s general principles

1.1 Do you support the principles of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill?

— No

1.2 Please outline your reasons for your answer to question 1.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

The Bill is entirely unnecessary. Smacking of children has been carried by loving parents for many generations BECAUSE they love them and know the importance of the child learning to live life in a disciplined way. The lack of discipline in UK society today is seen on the front page of every newspaper in the land. It is even seen in the House of Commons! Those who are promoting this Bill are actually trying to prevent child abuse and are using this Bill as a means to do it. It will not prevent nor minimise child abuse. Parents who smack their small children do not abuse them, they love them. My own children (and myself) were smacked occasionally, but after about age 7 needed no further correction other than by word of mouth.

This Bill is an interference with family life. The kind of interference that we have seen in Communist states and we have boasted that we are better than them!

It is yet another example of a new kind of thinking that has entered into Government behaviour today. We are now being told not just what we must do or not do, but also what we must believe. We are told that we must believe that immoral behaviour is no longer immoral, because Parliament says so!
1.3 Do you think there is a need for legislation to deliver what this Bill is trying to achieve?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

It is very unclear what this Bill is trying to achieve other than what I have mentioned above. It appears to be simply an effort to make us believe that the Welsh Government is actually doing something about a very real social problem. A problem that was virtually non existent when when I was a child, but that was when the UK was governed by people who believed in Judeo-Christian ethics.

Today it is Humanistic ethics that govern parliamentary thinking, and therefore the social problems. (I am 87 years old.)

2 The Bill’s implementation

2.1 Do you have any comments about any potential barriers to implementing the Bill? If no, go to question 3.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

The barriers are the inability to police such a Bill on the one hand, for child abuse is rarely carried out in public and the cost to the public purse on the other.

How can an already overstretched police force take on a new role? Will the other costs come out of the NHS budget? or the Education budget?

2.2 Do you think the Bill takes account of these potential barriers?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

Clearly not!

3 Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill? If no, go to question 4.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

The unintended consequences are presumably the criminalisation of people who are not currently criminals.
4 Financial implications

4.1 Do you have any comments on the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum)? If no, go to question 5.1

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

I have already referred to these under Question 2:1.

5 Other considerations

5.1 Do you have any other points you wish to raise about this Bill?

(we would be grateful if you could keep your answer to around 1000 words)

No.