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

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<th>Tystiolaeth i’r Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg ar gyfer craffu Cyfnod 1 Bil Plant (Diddymu Amddiffyniad Cosb Resymol) (Cymru)</th>
<th>Evidence submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill</th>
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**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)*

A gentle smack to warn children of danger to themselves before they are old enough to understand a verbal warning and therefore keeping them out of danger should not be criminal.

**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)*

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**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)*

Banning smacking will increase the work load of our very stretched police force and also social workers who are doing a very stressful job as it is.
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)

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)

Parents could be criminalised for just trying to keep their children safe.

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)

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)

There is a difference in giving a gentle smack and hitting a child. Law is in place to protect children from abuse. Perhaps it would be wise to increase social worker staff so that they are not so stretched, rather than spend the money criminalising loving parents.