

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)

Parents should have the right to discipline their children as they are responsible for teaching them what is right and how to live in a manner that will not only benefit them but also the society as a whole

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)

No there is no need for this legislation. Smacking is very different from child abuse and this legislation will offer no additional protection to children who are being abused. It will instead criminalise parents.

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)
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)

Yes an unintended consequence will be criminalising good parents who are using reasonable punishment to ensure that their children acquire the discipline, morals and values necessary for our society to prosper.

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)

In a time of limited financial resources the Welsh government should not be spending money on legislation that will not be effective in achieving its objectives.

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)

The legislation will also have an adverse effect on the police and social workers by requiring them to investigate parents who smack/physical punish their children as this will inevitably reduce the ability of these professionals to deal with more serious issues in our society.