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)

In my opinion the Defence of Reasonable Punishment should be available to parents. A child is entrusted to its parents to care for him/her from birth; the parent (and not the state) is responsible for the moral, physical and educational development of that child. Most parents do this lovingly and with their childrens' absolute best interests at heart. In order to raise the child the parent must be allowed the freedom to decide how best to handle each individual. Some children respond quickly to a disapproving look, a heart-to-heart discussion or a warning given by their loving parent and stop the offensive behaviour immediately but others are harder to teach. They will push their parents sometimes to get them to enforce a boundary that the parent has laid down. For them it is not enough to warn etc. they need the parent to have the strength of their convictions and follow up with the deserved punishment. Removal of privileges for such a child does not work. Although positive parenting is good and for most children will be successful, for these children there are times when using strategies simply does not help. A bright child knows when a parent is trying to bribe him/her to be good. A quick smack administered with respect to the child’s person is sometimes the best way to re-inforce the boundaries or to protect them from harm. The state cannot possibly know each individual child (what are its strengths and weaknesses or its individual gifts/abilities), a loving parent has got to know the child from birth (and even before birth) and has formed a loving bond where there is trust between them. The child trusts the parent
to lead and guide him/her through a demanding world and to teach them right and wrong, so that they are able to thrive in the world when the time comes to leave the safety of the home. A home where there are boundaries and punishments for disobedience is a safe home. Obviously, there are some parents who do not care for their children, who abuse them, and the laws of our land are already there to deal with such, but need to be properly enforced.

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; the existing law needs to be better enforced. Parents should not be criminalised for doing what they believe to be the best for their children by administering a smack when necessary.

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)

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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)

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3 Unintended consequences

3.1 Do you think there are there 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 are likely to be criminalised and children disadvantaged.

Children in some cases will be irrevocably harmed by having their parents investigated or removed from them; loving parents who are seeking their absolute good.

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)

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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)