General comments on the Bill

- If reasonable chastisement is being kept, emphasise what reasonable means. Everyone’s idea of reasonable is different.
- It would be unwise to get rid of smacking completely, because it’s a simple discipline. You see it in the wild.
- It’s up to parents. They’re your guardian and they know you best.
- There’d be a lot of paperwork, with lots of small cases of smacking, and serious cases could get lost.
- A three-year-old might think, ‘They’re hitting me so it’s okay for me to hit someone else.’
- Younger children experience pain more than older kids or adults.
- Some kids might not take constant smacking seriously. They might become immune, and parents might start smacking harder.
- If a parent hits their child’s hand all the time, children would become immune, so it might build up.
- Discipline is a parent’s responsibility.
- Not many people would seriously abuse their child.
- The people who would harm their child will still do it.

Is physical discipline the only thing that works?

- A smack is better than shouting abuse.
- Constant shouting can scare you.
- You can remember words more than you can pain.
- A smack might hurt but the pain might be gone in five minutes.
- A smack hurts. I’m not going to forget that.

Children’s rights

- Adults have a legal responsibility to protect us, so adults should have different rights.
- If you get hit as an adult, you can charge for assault, but not with a parent hitting a kid. That’s not fair.
- A lot of rights are usually respected, but there are adults’ rights and children’s rights for a reason. You should have a right to smack your child.
Are there only two options: shouting or smacking?

- It depends on the circumstances. It's quicker to discipline with a quick smack than talking at them.
- Some parents will tell you to go to your room, but some kids will be more rebellious.
- Most teenagers wouldn't mind being sent to their room.
- Having your phone or wi-fi taken away is worse.
- A good enough parent shouldn't need to use violence.
- Kids can become immune to shouting. That could be stopped at an early age. Constant smacking is worse than constant shouting.
- For three-year-olds, smacking can be better than shouting. A three-year-old remembers something happening better than they remember words.
- I remember being smacked and thinking, 'I don't want to do that again.'

Smacking should be used as a back-up?

- Yes. If you don't do what your parent says, maybe it's okay.
- Parents feel bad after smacking children.
- My mum or dad would apologise.
- There has to be pain, but not serious pain. Not cuts or bruises.

Alternatives to smacking

- Parents should take away the kid's phone and send them to their room for an hour or so, to think about why they've done what they did.
- A child could be stopped from going to clubs after school for a while.
- If the bill is passed, or even if it isn’t, the media can be used to tell people what can be done instead of smacking, for example taking a phone or a favourite toy away.