

Response ID ANON-6G2E-4X9A-T

Submitted to School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill
Submitted on 2026-08-22 19:49:42

Introduction

1 Please confirm that you have read the Privacy Notice for Northern Ireland Assembly Committees by clicking the button below.

Yes, I have read the Privacy Notice.:

Yes

2 Do you consent to your submission being published on the Committee's website and included in the Committee's report?

Yes. Publish in full.

3 What is your name?

Name:

Belfast City Youth Council

4 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

5 Are you responding as:

Another organisation - please provide details.

Please provide further details here, if relevant.:

Belfast City Youth Council is the official Youth Participation Structure for Belfast City Council.

6 What is your gender?

Prefer not to say

Purpose of the Bill

7 Do you agree with the purpose of the Bill?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?:

Members of BCYC fully agree that female students should have the right to choose between trousers and a skirt for their uniform. We fully agree with the purpose of this long overdue bill.

8 Do you foresee any unintended consequences of the Bill?

No

If you have answered 'yes', please provide details:

Clauses of the Bill

Clause 1

9 Do you think Clause 1 will have the effects that are anticipated?

I believe Clause 1 will have all the anticipated effects.

If you have answered that Clause 1 will only have some of the anticipated effects, or won't have the anticipated effects, please provide details.:

When discussing this clause members made it clear that we support every clause fully, however we want to make it known that we believe this won't be the main solution to female students experiencing things like upskirting and feeling unsafe and that more work needs to be done in this area. We also want to make it known that we believe that also to ensure period dignity in schools that sanitary products in all schools should be free and accessible. We also believe that girls should have the choice to wear either tights or socks with their uniform if they wear a skirt if they want this option, this can help girls with sensory issues who may struggle with wearing tights.

Clause 2

10 It is appropriate for the DE to also publish its guidelines on school uniforms.

Strongly agree

Do you have any further comments? :

We strongly agree that DE should publish their guidelines. When discussing this clause members said, "There is nothing wrong with more transparency" and "It makes sense that young people can see if their school is compliant with the new regulations". We believe that all students have the right to know if their school is compliant just as this member said during our discussion, and that full transparency is absolutely essential for young people.

Clause 3

11 Do you have any comments on this Clause?

No

If you have answered 'yes', please provide details.:

Financial effects of the Bill

12 The financial effects of the Bill will be minimal. (See Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the Explanatory and Financial Memorandum.)

Strongly agree

Do you have any further comments? :

Additional Comments and Observations

13 Additional comments and observations

Comment Box :

We welcome this legislation being brought forth, as we stated in this response and in the response that we submitted to the right to wear trousers consultation earlier this year. We believe this is a step in the right direction for freedom of choice for students and for women and girls, however more must be done to ensure equality and safety for women and girls in these spaces. We believe this is also a step in the right direction for the rights of children and young people as we had discussions about framing our support for this bill that were grounded in the UNCRC.