

Response ID ANON-3H4R-7E9G-W

Submitted to School Uniforms (Trousers) Bill

Submitted on 2026-07-29 15:00:45

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:

[REDACTED]

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.:

Focus Project School Uniform Scheme, Creggan Enterprises

6 What is your gender?

Female

Purpose of the Bill

7 Do you agree with the purpose of the Bill?

Yes

Do you have any further comments?:

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.:

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? :

It is appropriate and needed for DE to publish its guidelines on school uniforms. In our work around affordability of uniforms and wider issue of cost of the school day it has previously been difficult to clarify guidelines. In our experience this allows schools a level of ambiguity when explaining their uniform policies and decisions. We are hopeful that clear and published guidelines will encourage schools to be more transparent on their uniform policies and decision making processes.

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 :

It is concerning that it would take bill for children in 2026 to be allowed the option of wearing trousers. Our work on the cost of the whole school day highlights multiple issues that we feel should be addressed. Too much time and emphasis is spent on what amounts to the policing of young people and particularly girls and young womens bodies. While it is appreciated the bill will help girls feel more comfortable we would also like to see dedicated work in the assembly on womens health and particularly around issues such as endometriosis which affects a lot of young women and impacts negatively on their attendance and attainment. With schools in deficit, families struggling with cost of living, rising absenteeism in children with additional needs, the issue of trousers really is simple and common sense. We would have preferred the uniform act to have gone further in requiring schools to simplify items but also provide more comfortable items across the board. There is a conservatism within our schools around how young people look and dress which is not replicated across the employment sectors. The onus must be on improving school environments, including cost of the school day overall, so all children can feel included, welcome and comfortable.