

Proposed Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to ensure that young people have the opportunity to experience residential outdoor education.

The consultation runs from 29 April 2022 to 22 July 2022

All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer.

All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response.

Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded.

Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here:

[Consultation Document](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice which explains how my personal data will be used.

On the previous page we asked you if you are UNDER 12 YEARS old, and you responded Yes to this question.

If this is the case, we will have to contact your parent or guardian for consent.

If you are under 12 years of age, please put your contact details into the textbox. This can be your email address or phone number. We will then contact you and your parents to receive consent.

Otherwise please confirm that you are or are not under 12 years old.

No Response

About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation.
Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Teacher/school employee

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation

Holder of Summer Mountain Leader Award. Involved with outdoor education as well as primary post as Secondary School Science Teacher.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your Full Name or the name of your organisation. (Only give the name of your organisation if you are submitting a response on its behalf).

(Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

John Rennie

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number.

We will not publish these details.

Aim and approach - Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is "not for publication").

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill? (Please note that this question is compulsory.)

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I was fortunate enough to be educated in Fife in the 70s where, certainly as a state school pupil at Queen Anne High School, the outdoors and sport and general were encouraged. I spent two residential weeks at Ardroy Outdoor centre one involving field studies and the outdoors and another a multi activity experience. I look back on these experiences and other similar provided by the Fife Education Authority of the time as formative both personally and empowering me to think I of the outdoors as a way to develop potential and expectations in others. It was definitely a factor in my desire to lead and facilitate other in their experience of personal development in the great outdoors. It was with a great personal sadness that we witnessed the attempted closure and subsequent disposal of Ardroy by a less enlightened Fife Council of the current day. Only by the personal dedication of others has this centre survived such cultural vandalism and has endured as a private entity.

Many residential school outdoor centres have closed or had funding cut due to lack of support and foresight by the Scottish Government of today.

Q2. Do you think legislation is required, or are there other ways in which the proposed Bill's aims could be achieved more effectively? Please explain the reasons for your response.

Legislation is required it it is also essential that a policy body and caucus is established to reestablish residential activity and outdoor education as a right. Cash strapped councils often see such activities as middle class or extras. This is understandable if very shortsighted. Widening experience and exposing every child in Scotland to opportunity for self development outside the urban setting should be a right. It is a shame that Scotland seemed at the forefront of this when I was a youngster but has now regressed.

Q3. The proposed Bill will cover residential outdoor education provision for local authority and grant-aided schools only. Which of the following best expresses your view that independent schools or any other education establishments should not be covered by this obligation.

Fully opposed

Please give reasons for your response.

Whatever sector you are educated in residential outdoor provision should be a right otherwise the basic ethos behind the bill is not being upheld. The fact that many independent establishments offer this should not exempt the sector from the scope of the bill.

Q4. The intention is that the obligation to ensure that residential outdoor education is provided would fall on those who are responsible for arranging the provision, e.g. education authorities and managers of grant-aided schools. Which of the following best expresses your view of this proposal?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Without obligation it would be difficult to ensure the provision was made available. However additional funding must be made available to local authorities or the few direct grant schools that still exist. Without this it is difficult to see how the aims of the bill being achieved within most local authorities current education budgets.

In the last 20 years there had been an increased closure and dismantling of school outdoor facilities and centres. Laganlia and some others are notable exceptions. Significant funds will be needed to reinstate

Q4. The intention is that the obligation to ensure that residential outdoor education is provided would fall on those who are responsible for arranging the provision, e.g. education authorities and managers of grant-aided schools. Which of the following best expresses your view of this proposal?

infrastructure and to fund or defray the per capita cost of such residential costs. I am not suggesting that parents pay nothing however ability to pay should also not inhibit participation.

Funding

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of how residential outdoor education experiences should be funded?

In full by the Scottish Government

Please explain the reasons for your response. (If you consider Scottish Government funding should be provided to local authorities, please set out the mechanism for such funding, for example through block grant, ring fenced funding etc.)

I am frustrated that the options on this questionnaire are seen to be mutually exclusive! Infrastructure should be fully funded and developed by Scottish Government and additional funds made available as a ring fenced provision for actual participation in the residential activities to local authorities. It would be wonderful to think that these places could be fully funded. In reality some contribution would have to come from parents/carers, with social funding being made through from appropriate sources to defray or eliminate the costs to those who struggle financially. It may be that without access to government/education authority residential facilities places may need to be provided at privately owned centres/by private providers on a per capita basis.

Financial Implications

Q6. Any new law can have a financial impact which would affect individuals, businesses, the public sector, or others. What financial impact do you think this proposal could have if it became law?

a significant increase in costs

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including who you would expect to feel the financial impact of the proposal, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could be delivered more cost-effectively.

This is a difficult question to answer as it depends on what model the Government of the time would implement.

Large central government costs would be needed to increase infrastructure and reinstate the provision that has been lost or downgraded over the years. From personal experience finding centres and residential accommodation for pupils is increasingly difficult. There is also a staffing and trading cost. Not just to staff centres but to train staff to become facilitators of outdoor learning. Residential experiences work best where staff are part of the experience and not just residential babysitting handing over their charges to outsourced provision.

For businesses and residential providers it would increase cash flow and be cash positive in the long term. However if a hybrid model of Education Authority Centres with Private Providers is envisaged. Medium or long term contracts would need to be negotiated carefully to enable financial accountability as well as security for external providers to invest.

Standard/ Quality of provision

Q7. Which of the following best expresses your view on the proposal for a quality framework to ensure the quality of the education provision of outdoor centres?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your response, including whether this should be done by HMIE using a quality framework as part of their inspection of schools and the extent to which, if any, it should be statutory.

I am not sure the HMIE currently has the correct expertise. Residential educational centres/schools are also subject to Care Commission inspection. Centres and providers which provide adventurous activities are also inspected and regulated by ALAA. Professional instructors are also regulated and certified by their professional bodies. All of these elements need to be taken into account and are enacted in the running of centre such as Laganlia.

I think it important that quality is monitored and regulated but much care needs to be taken here. There is a quality's to the outdoor experience which cannot be solely assigned to learning outcomes matrices and learning outcomes.

Q8. Which of the following best expresses your view that the age range of 12 – 16 is appropriate for participation in the residential outdoor education experience?

Partially supportive

Please give reasons for your response, including whether you think other age ranges would be more appropriate.

I considered ticking fully supportive but then thought that I should think more widely. I think a two day residential experience should be available during S1 for 12 year olds which may or may not be in the outdoors. Many schools have or are offering this.

If we re looking at getting the best returns from such a weeks scheme the sweet spot for participation is when they are a bit more physically and emotionally mature. I would at the perfect age is 14-15. ie S3. The last session before they are involved with National exams. Or a Summwr term even for S4 pupils of 15-16 after National exams. We should not necessarily close out 16-18 year olds but must be aware that greater benefits for individual development can be achieved earlier in their schooling. I full believe that residential experience. Be made available through trips and activity camps throughout the senior years. I do also believe that a one week experience minimum should be a right.

Equalities

Q9. Any new law can have an impact on different individuals in society, for example as a result of their age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

What impact could this proposal have on particular people if it became law? If you do not have a view skip to next question.

Please explain the reasons for your answer and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts on particular people.

No Response

Q10. How might equity of provision for all be ensured, regardless of socio-economic status? Please give reasons for your response.

This I have answered I. My previous responses. Ability to pay should not be made a barrier. Many centres in the past had equipment and clothing stores or banks to prevent some of the barriers to participation.

Sustainability

Q11. Any new law can impact on work to protect and enhance the environment, achieve a sustainable economy, and create a strong, healthy, and just society for future generations.

Do you think the proposal could impact in any of these areas? [If you do not have a view then skip to next question]

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including what you think the impact of the proposal could be, and if there are any ways you think the proposal could avoid negative impacts?

Awareness of the natural landscape and its stewardship can only be enhanced by this bill.

Common experience shared with others can be a powerful tool enhance social cohesion and mutual respect.

General

Q12. Do you have any other additional comments or suggestions on the proposed Bill (which have not already been covered in any of your responses to earlier questions)?

No Response