

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".)

Member of the public

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

I am the most experience outdoor instructor who speaks Gaelic, in Scotland. I am the manager of Spòrs Gàidhlig, have worked with young people for 25 years, in both Gaelic and English. I have managed many large residentials in Gaelic including all aspects of the organisation and programme.

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).

Donald Morris

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.)

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Young people benefit from a residential experience at an outdoor centre. However, traditionally Gaelic-speaking young people have been ingored with the general attitude being that young people and schools should adjust themselves to the lack of any Gaelic medium provision. This has had a direct and real affect on the standard of Gaelic which young people use. If high quality experiences are offered in English only, it is only natural that the participants link those positive experiences with the language in which they take place.

It is therefore imperative that a Gaelic medium, standalone, centre is created which is not part of an existing organisation. The facts* show that existing organisations have no understanding or ambition for Gaelic. In short, unless paid to do so, they do nothing for Gaelic.

* No centre or organisation has undertaken any development work to create Gaelic medium activities, train instructors or anything else. Yes, the likes of Stramash and Outward Bound have undertaken programmes but none of those have have produced any results and stopped as soon as the funding stops.

Spòrs Gàidhlig is the only Gaelic organisation able to provide its programme in Gaelic.

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.

The short answer is that funding is required. Legislation will be useful IF it specifies that all children in Gaelic medium education have access to residential which are 100% in Gaelic. That is not possible currently as there are no Gaelic outdoor centres and the model of joining on to an existing English medium centre, does not work and none of them have any expertise or interest in the language. A standalone centre is required.

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.

Private schools should not be funded by the public purse but should be under the same obligations as any other school.

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?

Partially opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response.

In every case, local authorities employ people in outdoor education who are at best neutral on Gaelic and in many situations actively hostile. The pattern has been to try and cobble together a group of people and attempt to pass this off as Gaelic medium provision.

Therefore, the same pattern will follow if the delivery of Gaelic medium provision is left to local authorities.

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?

The Bill should specify that there should be no difference in the breadth of provision in Gaelic and English i.e. delivering a few Gaelic activities and the rest in English should not be branded as Gaelic.

Local authorities, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council, Glasgow, Argyll & Bute and so on, have no Gaelic speaking outdoor instructors or any development staff who speak the language and are therefore unable to deliver Gaelic medium outdoor residential.

Funding

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

In some other way

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.)

A bursary system, a community interest fund, should be established. Poverty is on the rise and many parents do not have funds to use for residential.

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?

some 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.

Residential are the most expensive way to deliver outdoor education as travel to the centre and food and accommodation are all in addition to the costs of the instructors and equipment for the activities.

A cheaper way is for mobile units to travel to schools and deliver a programme with participants going home at night.

However, there is great value in a residential experience and more funding is required for their reinstatement as a core part of the school year.

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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.

As long as a clear requirement for Gaelic medium residential is included, it is less important who enforces this.

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

In general children from 8-18 benefit from these experiences but the number of nights can be varied to suit the client group. A Monday to Friday model works well.

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.

The Gaelic Language Act 2005 (Scotland) must be included in any new legislation.
An equal entitlement to Gaelic outdoor education must be included in the legislation with all authorities offering GME required to offer residential in Gaelic. Not bilingually as that just means English with a bit of Gaelic.

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

Through a system of bursaries and funding for children identified as in need.

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?

Yes. Clearly there will be a need to travel to outdoor centres and this will increase carbon emissions. Scotrail can be required to offer reduced price travel for schools.

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)?

Please contact me to discuss this further.