

# 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 an academic whose work is based on developing sustainable manufacturing, generally involving wastes from agriculture and forestry

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).

Donnchadh Mac Guaire

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.)

Partially supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I think it is an excellent idea - connecting people to their environment is crucially important, especially given the pressing need for action on climate change and a far better understanding of the environment we live in, and the impacts we have on it (both positive and negative). I would like to see a stronger emphasis on sustainability, ecology and an understanding of ecosystems (something which we as a species are profoundly ignorant of). I would also be more supportive of the proposal if it included the possibility that this education can be delivered in all three indigenous Scottish languages (Scots, Gaelic and English) as these all represent the human environment that the country is composed of. Working with the human environment is symbolically very important here, as the most important learning points about an outdoor education is that we need to work with the environment and not against it. Including all three Scottish languages would be symbolically very important, rather than an "imperialistic" approach where we try to dominate and control. As a Gaelic speaker, I would also argue that Gaelic is inextricably and profoundly associated with the environment (the Gaelic alphabet is related to tree species for example) and so it would be very ironic if Gaelic speakers only had access to this education via English. (Scots may well be similar, but I'm not as knowledgeable here). Work on these aspects and I'd be 100% behind the proposal

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.

I'm not an expert here by any means, but this way forward would make a strong statement that these factors are very important

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.

Partially supportive

**Please give reasons for your response.**

I'm not completely sure what this means. Independent etc schools should not receive funding/provision (probably agree) or that they should not be required to provide this education (disagree)

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 supportive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Given appropriate funding mechanisms (and the availability of appropriate resources) yes

## 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.)**

I dont know. the funding should NOT be expected to come from parents/carers as this would exclude people / put people under immense financial burden. I would support funding from the Government or local authorities, but would welcome additional funding schemes, as both of them would need to find the funds somewhere

## 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.**

I would hope that the costs could be aided by the willingness of landowners to contribute - many are very rich (the Royal family for example might welcome some positive publicity) and substantial parts of the country are owned by offshore companies - I'm sure they would be happy to contribute to the country's development too in some way. I suspect, if the scheme is successful, then the benefits would significantly outweigh the costs

## 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?

Partially 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.**

For the reasons given above I think there is an excellent proposal here, but needs a bit more work to get there. I think it should be assessable in some way (although educational assessment is in practice far too bureaucratic and unhelpful, and often leads to box ticking rather than benefits)

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

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?

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

I've been through the discussion of "what's the appropriate age group for ..." many times and there generally isn't one. Ideally this would be done earlier (8-10 maybe?) and then reinforced later, maybe 13-15 or so, in a second phase. Initially, maybe 12-16 might be a good compromise, but in an ideal world, this would be a reinforcement. I'd prefer the earlier part of that range (12-14 maybe) so that any impact is delivered before educational choices are made by students.

## 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.

I'd prefer a centralised or local authority funding model except for independent schools (they are already charities if I understand correctly, so have quite a nice deal already)

## 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?

If done correctly, this proposal could have a very positive impact on all of these activities. Helping people to understand that the environment is important and that it must be respected will help mitigate negative impacts (although there will no doubt be localised impacts - it's hard to see a bunch of young teenagers out in the countryside being entirely reverential). Having the residential activities as the "culmination" of school based learning will also help

## 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*