

# 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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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).

David Sanderson

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.**

Outdoor experiences, especially in a residential context, are the most powerful tool I've seen in 20 years

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

as an education professional for giving young people an opportunity to make positive changes in their current life and future contentment.

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 would have hoped that by making funding available for this kind of project, the desired outcome would be met. Unfortunately we've seen in the past that unless enshrined in law, funding can be overlooked or mis-spent.

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.**

The independent sector educates a large minority of our young people at no cost to the taxpayer. I believe we should do everything in our power to encourage this industry. My neighbour's kids receive an amazing education and it doesn't cost them much more than the taxpayer pays for my kids' very basic education. It's a long time since Scottish education was world-class

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

## 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.)**

Ring-fenced Scottish Government funding should be made available for this if we really want it to happen. Within the criteria it should be crystal clear what proportion of funding can be spent on administration and what must go directly to the experience itself

## 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 reduction 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 bill will not have a large cost of implementation but the potential for change is massive. Think of the future savings in physical and mental healthcare, justice, legal and probation services. There is also potential for this to kickstart a shift in teachers' attitudes to young people and therefore their workplace. It may actually result in reducing costs of supply teachers etc!

## 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 opposed

**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.**

We already have regulations for the quality of residential outdoor centres. The best one is AALA Licensing. For centres that offer out-of-scope activities (which are not as effective for positive change) there is Adventuremark, IOL, etc. Additionally the providers are typically well-known to schools and local authorities so there is no need to repeat the work of selection.

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?

Fully opposed

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

15 to 16 is way too late to implement wide-scale change in young people. The residential should focus on late primary to early secondary children: 11 to 13 years old. At age 14 Duke of Edinburgh Awards are already a great route for developing young people

## 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.

I have experienced a number of individuals from minorities being involved in residential outdoor education and the outcome has always been positive.

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

If the project is fully-funded then there can be no inequity because all participants will be given places that are free at the point of delivery

## 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?

People only care for the things they connect with. The details of the programmes should insist on an element of sustainable development or environmental education along with adventurous activities and experiential learning. There are already a number of exemplars for this: Scottish Outdoor Education Centres; Outward Bound; John Muir Awards; Abernethy Trust; etc

## 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)?

Just ensure there's real adventure in these programmes and that they are available for mainstream education early enough for each young person (11 to 13)