

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.

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Commercial organisation (company, business)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

Freelance Outdoor Instructor

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).

A Dorward

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

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.

This needs to be mandated in law, backed up with investment to rebuild/build the centres and staff necessary for delivery. Over the last 30 years outdoors centres have been at the bottom end of local authority budgets, many have closed and those that remain open are needing improvement.

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 supportive

Please give reasons for your response.

The costs for not government schools should be borne by the parents fees

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.

For too long. Children have been in a sterile education environment that is not suited for everyone. Increased focus on the process of teaching, and transfer of authority away from teachers towards parents/pupils has caused a huge discipline problem that remains unsolved. Studying is not for everyone, outdoor education is vital for large numbers of children yet is neglected or relegated to a DofE leader at the school (I do not agree with DofE being a scheduled subject) as the only means of "handling" non-studious pupils

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.)

Schools in disadvantaged areas already have money to spend on these types of activities. There needs to be a) investment in facilities and b) additional funds for schools (pro-rata) to handle the role of organising and possibly paying the LA / commercial outdoor centre.

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

Most LA have removed outdoors centres, and would depend on non-LA centres to deliver the residential activity until such time as the LA could invest in building there own. Money for investing in LA should come from the existing LA budget backed up by ring fenced funds from central gov. A tax rise of 1p could easily fund this many times over

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.

The Scotgov has fixed budgets with limited ways of raising new money. Investment in centres, land, equipment, staff, catering, insurances, teachers comes at a cost. Offsetting this cost will be a refuction in disruptive behaviour, reduction in mental health issues, reduction in use of nhs resources, improvements in education system by behavioural improvements

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 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.

The cost of a quality framework is too high currently. Needs to be simplified to avoid high cost of entry.

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 teach children from P5 in the outdoors. They are the perfect age to start with, strong enough to take part in activities, and open enough to embrace the outdoor environment. 12 is ok, but too late for many inner city children

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.

We live in an area with many immigrants, none of whom have the chance to visit the outdoors. There is a lot of economic deprivation in our city, again these children are not connected with the environment outside their local area. I volunteer, taking groups of Muslim hillwalkers into the mountains to share and improve understanding of our history and landscape.

The outdoors is the ultimate level playing field. Each activity demands a slightly different set of muscles, concentration, endurance, fear and balance. There is something for everyone

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

Today, there are too few centres offering provision. The numbers would need highly increased and each facility would need infrastructure improvements. Eg removal of some existing huts and rebuilding new. Covid removed huge numbers out of the outdoors employment sector, no furlough meant no money. I had no income for 18 months and watched many colleagues give up and leave the industry. There is barely an outdoor industry left in Scotland other than a few charities (who are on their knees financially) and two high profile centres in Aonach Mor and Wolftrax.

This initiative should be seen as a massive reboot of the education and outdoor industry for all children. It must be available to all children regardless of how poor they are, in the same way as the outdoors is available to all. It resonates.

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?

The proposal would stem the flow of staff leaving the outdoor activities industry. For minimum wage, I am legally responsible for everyone in my care - on a mountain, in a forest, on a river even just walking beside a road.

I need personal insurance, public liability indemnity, technical equipment, a car, huge amounts of training beyond degree level, first aid recertification, a website and all that goes with that.

Working in the outdoors is a great way of transforming a large pot of money into a small pot of money and if I hadn't a career beforehand to save up - it wouldn't be something I could afford to continue with.

Raise the bar generally. More centres, more staff, more money for staff, more respect for the outdoors in government generally.

That's your foundation for improvement.

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?

The children leave a weeks outdoor learning with new and deeper friendships, new skills, new responsibilities, a respect for the outdoors and each other (teamwork is key outdoors)

In other words the children transform as we push them from self centred to self aware.

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