

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

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

Honours degree in adventure recreation management, 16 years experience delivering outdoor education experiences to young people and about to complete a PGDE in Primary Education.

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).

Craig McDonald

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 education is hugely beneficial to the development of our young people, particularly as we recover from the pandemic and face other challenges to our way of life. Building children's resilience and problem solving abilities, enhancing their self esteem and social skills and giving them a hands on relationship with nature can only help in our future endeavours as a society. An active lifestyle helps to decrease the burden on the NHS, is a proven and effective way of managing mental health issues and ensures our future generations have more knowledge of themselves and the world around them.

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 the only way I can see that will ensure outdoor residential trips are carried out without councils being able to wriggle out of their obligations one way or another. If this bill was in place a couple of years ago a couple of world class residential centres could have been saved from unnecessary closure and demolition, such as kilbowie near Oban.

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 think there should be an option for them to buy into such a scheme if they wish, but priority is given to local authority schools.

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.

The two go hand in hand, education and outdoor education. They are symbiotic and help each other to ensure breadth and depth within a young person's experiences and overall education.

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

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

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.)

We are facing a crises of obesity in our country. In the 16 years I've been working in outdoor education I have seen a worrying decline in the number of pupils who can swim, ride bikes, and in many cases have the strength and ability to walk up small hills or canoe a short distance. By providing meaningful, inspirational, and well connected educational experiences - which are linked to students local facilities to encourage them to follow up on activities they have enjoyed - we can help to reverse this trend and ensure future generations are healthier and happier. This must fall on the government's shoulders to ensure it is delivered fairly, country wide, and helps avoid councils from shying away from the expenditure required to meet this kind of obligation.

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?

no overall change 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 hard to estimate. The benefits of outdoor education cannot be measured financially. However, the impact on the health and well-being of the population will surely have a positive financial impact on services such as the NHS. Current outdoor education providers would certainly benefit financially, as would those who train and assess the instructors who deliver outdoor education courses.

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.

This would have to be done by those who have long experience working with young people in outdoor environments, rather than people in offices in Edinburgh who have no idea of the minute details involved in successfully delivering residential courses. So I would be very wary of a national framework as one shoe certainly does not fit all - we have a huge array of different environments which mean delivery of courses varies from place to place. I would inherently disagree with HMIE being involved as I feel it creates a very different atmosphere than is required in outdoor education settings.

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 opposed

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

That's great - but I would argue that 10 and 11 year olds should be included.

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.

Before it's untimely closure, Kilbowie OEC, which was run by North Lanarkshire council, exemplified equity and inclusion. Pupils from lower income families were given a substantial discount, a large number of activities were specifically adapted for those with additional needs, facilities within the centre were adapted to ensure everyone was included and not left out. Instructors were carefully selected to ensure a positive, nurturing ambience and environment, and success was celebrated by all.

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?

By having more young people experience nature and the outdoors, educating them about the importance of respecting and protecting the natural environment will in itself have a longer term benefit to our environment. Selecting locations which have buildings or land in an ideal location currently rather than building whole new centres in sensitive locations is certainly a major consideration, too.

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