

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 would like this response to be published anonymously

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):

I'm a profession working in the sector and my view may be controversial.

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).

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 opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Outdoor education and residential experience have need conflated. Both are valuable, but they are not the same. By linking them this is less likely to succeed due to cost. I am also of the view that access to adventurous activities without a residential makes it far more accessible long term, and is much more cost effective.

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 think legislation is helpful to ensure hard pressed resources are allocated. It would also be useful to define what is meant by outdoor education. Previous attempts have accepted outdoor learning as anything that happens outside the classroom. I think the intention of this proposal is for an experience more complex than that.

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 opposed

Please give reasons for your response.

Most independent schools will have access to adventurous outdoor experiences already, but if they do not then this should be available to them in the same manner as for others.

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.)

As said previously the cost of the residential is likely to make this infeasible and likely to make this fail. If it were to pass then cost should be met by SG.

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.

Not all schools currently access this kind of experience. As they all have this opportunity costs will obviously increase. More importantly, there is not currently capacity to provide this. If this becomes compulsory, the supply demand issue will drive up costs. As commercial providers fill the gap this may force out of the market the remaining LA providers (very few left). I have mixed views as to whether or not that would be a good thing.

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.

Only partially supportive as this will involve a prevailing narrative winning out on how outdoor education should be delivered or even defined. This bill has not defined outdoor education and as I have said earlier previous attempts have diluted the concept as schools have discovered the difficulties surrounding quality provision of adventurous outdoor activities, particularly those with learning outcomes which are not about acquiring skill in relation to the activities.

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.

This is the problem with linking outdoor education to a residential. Access to activities should be progressive and continuous throughout education from nursery to the end of secondary. Please look at Norwegian model.

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.

Ensuring that this is equally available to those with disabilities will be a challenge. But that should not restrict the possibility.

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

Cost and capacity of the sector will be the current barriers even if legislation is enacted. Cost should be met by SG, sector should be given time to grow to meet the demand.

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?

Again, linking to residential requires transport and the associated carbon foot print. Having said that, access to experiences throughout education May in fact mean more travel over the piece. More research required.

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)?

I'm have 40 years experience of delivering outdoor education in the 3rd sector and Local Authority. I am convinced that linking residential accessing adventurous experiences reduces the belief by young people that accessing places and experiences is available to them as a life long opportunity. Accessing from their community over time and progressively creates a belief that the environment and adventurous experiences are theirs for life and not just when being led by an old bearded man (that's me) from a old highland house far away from home. Access to these experiences are life changing, but much more so when accessed over a life time.