

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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).

Small family run outdoor learning provider - We have been running for 30years and have provided opportunities to schools and youth groups. The Owner has an MSc in Outdoor Education

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).

John White - Whitewave Skye's Outdoor Centre

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 fully support outdoor learning within the education sector, I think that what is termed Outdoor Education is still very fluid and vague and misunderstood, I fully support the idea of all children having an opportunity to say try outdoor activities, but often the residential aspect is as important, but often can be institutionalised due to logistics and numbers. I am passionate about outdoor centre type provision but wonder whether they have moved with the times and should/could be more creative in their approach to providing outdoor experiences and learning for pupils. In short I am fully supportive of provision, but there must be a lot of discussion as to what that provision is. On one hand it is as simple as taking kids rock climbing, but on the other it can be so much more....

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.

It is sad that legislation would be required, the main issue of course would be funding it, my worry is that the experiences would be watered down and out to tender and end up being the cheapest providers who are strapped for cash...

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.

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please give reasons for your response.

Independent schools seem to provide these experiences anyway....

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.

Education authorities would end up juggling budgets, the main issue would be funding it, the whole thing would be pointless if there is no extra money to provide...Again the creativity that should be meshed with such provision is likely to be lost due to institutionalising. Having said that, anything is better than nothing.

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.)

It pains me to say that local authorities are rife with inefficiencies, and Scottish Government rife with being exploited. Having run a private centre for 30 years then there should be an option for private provision, but a one size fits all approach would probably be erroneous, but I imagine would be the one adopted. Block grants per child to individual schools might be the answer so schools can pick the most appropriate (and local!!) providers.

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.

There would have to be an increased cost to government/authority which would be met through taxation etc. There has to be a diverse and mixed approach to how money is spent.

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.

There has to be some quality assurance, the inspectorate would have to employ experts in the field to look at the experience - this is a very separate issue from the safety side of things which is obviously paramount but already in place - they should not be the same inspectors and would require a very specific skill set which should cover experiential learning, place centred learning, personal development etc etc as well as any meshing with any curricular requirements - connecting the experience to the school and home situation is utterly important, it should not just be a bubble experience but meshed with previous school experiences before and review experience after. Unfortunately schools are so underfunded and busy the weeks will be seen as a separate trip rather than a personal development experience to be built on...

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.

Earlier the better before the cynicism with schooling sets in

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.

A well run residential experience can help in educational terms, personal development interpersonal skills are crucial when staffing and facilitating outdoor experiences. These are the times when learning and discussion happens with young people. Its not just about the kayaking....

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

Completely funded through the schooling system (but also available to home schoolers) - issues might be with young carers, there may have to be provision for funding those who care/work to keep a family going...

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 these experiences are well run, facilitated by quality staff and seen as a personal development course (and not just go kayaking and see what happens) then absolutely, the benefits will be long lasting and in the long run will save money in societal and health benefits, but it will be a marathon not a sprint. Should be a 25 year plan...

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)?

It could be an incredible educational opportunity to engage all pupils but especially those who dont sit comfortably in the traditional system, the impact of experiences are immeasurable, but my worry is that experiences will be watered down and not used and facilitated to the most effective way. But anything is better than nothing.