

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".)

Member of the public

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

I worked in Outdoor Education and Experiential/Management Development in the 70's and 80's

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).

Gordon McPhee

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.

Having been brought up in an inner city area, the outdoor breaks that I experienced as a member of the BB set me up for life. I then used my experience to help other find opportunities to develop using the learning achieved by being in the outdoor environment as well. I volunteered in this area then secured a full time job that ultimately led me to a career (outwith Outdoor Education). I know of many others who also achieved new goals as a direct or indirect result of events such as this. Experiential development is essential in helping young people develop as well rounded citizens - life is not only about academic achievement.

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 may be required but adequate funding is essential. We have to go into this is a big way. Outdoor Education is not only about rock climbing or other extreme sports, it can be about appreciating nature or simply getting away from a set environment, even if only for a week or so. Adequate funding is the key.

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.

Given that independent schools are funded externally (gifts/charity status/fees/funds/etc I can see an argument that they should not be funded by the state. However, we are talking about the development of young people and it is not their fault that their parents send them to a private school. Perhaps think about adding independent schools later (many already have OE as part of their programmes 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?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Fully supportive but only if proper funding is given to achieve that aim.

Funding

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

In full by local authorities (for local authority-run schools)

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.)

No child should be excluded because their parents are poor. The local authority is best placed to provide the experience and they must be adequately funded by the government to do so.

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.

If this is to be properly financed, it needs to be paid for somehow. We shouldn't be cutting anything so an increase in costs is the only way to achieve this.

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 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 needs to be quality assessment of the provision. I'm not sure that HMIE would be the best people to do this (they're overworked as it is and many school assessments have not been carried out for years). An independent auditor of the provision should be created (properly funded of course).

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.

There is much to be said for younger children having the opportunity for this experience too (my children's

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?

primary school did this for years 5, 6 and 7 and was much appreciated). Equally, older students (16+) can gain much by a properly structured programme in outdoor education.

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.

Proper funding and planning can reduce, if not eliminate, the barriers that exist for any discrimination that occurs. Again, quality assessments can ensure that no child suffers because of this.

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

By quality assessments with minimum standards set. As programmes must adapt to the needs of participants there must not be set programmes to follow but guideline outcomes can be set and measured.

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?

This could help or harm the environment. Overuse of some areas/land could be detrimental to the local environment but equally, a properly structured programme (particularly for older students) can involve programmes designed to protect/repair the outdoor environment.

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)?

The sooner this is done the better.