

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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

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).

<https://www.countrysidelearningscotland.org.uk> We are a rural education charity, we aim to deliver rural awareness participation training and career opportunities to secondary pupils in the main through our Pathways to Rural Work initiative, now delivered in Tayside the North West and the Cairngorms.

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).

Ian Robertson, Executive Director, Countryside Learning Scotland (Charitable company ltd by guarantee)

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.

We currently run a residential programme at SCQF rural skills level 4 and fully agree with the outcomes and benefits that the bill highlights for young people.

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 believe legislation is key to ensure a balanced education is achieved. Both pupils stimulated and engaged by academia and those who are not can benefit from the social and practical elements of a residential experience. I believe to ensure this crucial part of a young persons education legislation is the best way forward.

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.

Unsure

Please give reasons for your response.

I believe all school aged children should have a right to all parts of education, however, Independent schools are businesses in their own right and it should be up to them to sell their offering to those who chose to attend.

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 obligation should lie with the education authorities, however, placing some responsibilities with the residential facilities to support the education authorities through marketing their offerings may be helpful.

Funding

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

By parents/carers meeting food and accommodation costs, and all other costs being met from public funds

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.)

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

this should be part of our young peoples core education and as such funded by the Scottish Government. living costs that would normally be met by parents should not be covered except where financial support is the norm.

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.

The negligible increase to the taxpayer would be offset by the benefits to society and our young people. Residential experiences produce more balanced, confident and engaged young people with better self esteem in the long run will mean less social disturbance, less crime, more productivity, more higher skilled content people.

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.

Every new programme needs a clear set of outcomes and delivery mechanisms to achieve those outcomes and ensure national standards. HMIE would seem the relevant body to deliver this.

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 supportive

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

This is a key age in a young persons development. Self esteem and confidence building are key to supporting the decisions a young person has to make at this stage in their development, including subject choice. Providing residential opportunities at this stage, across outdoor activities from traditional land use to recreation Adventure and the environment will help them find out their interests and potentially their

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?

chosen career route. It is also our experience through Pathways to Rural Work initiative that secondary schools struggle to make this provision due to the subject based nature of the timetable.

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.

Impact on any individual situation should be respected and provision built in to any law. Many young people are currently impacted because they don't get this opportunity!

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

Socio economic situations of individuals should be respected and considered as it is in our current education system, I don't see how this would be any different.

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?

Our experience at CLS is that engaging and educating young people in the outdoors particularly progressing the experience to involve training and career opportunities, only enhances the environment, improves local economies and creates more sustainable resilient communities .

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)?

Due to Brexit and Covid in particular we currently have a rural sector that has a shortage of skilled young people; rural college courses struggling to recruit students and a secondary school community with little or no provision for rural skills. Providing a residential programme that will help to fill this gap and the need for more young skilled people is crucial.