

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

I have worked in the outdoor education sector as an activity provider

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

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.)

Fully supportive

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.

Based on the information given in the consultation document it would seem that without legislation the aims of the Bill will not be achieved, as the provision of outdoor education would need to become statutory.

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 do not have detailed knowledge of how the education sector is split up, but should there be educational establishments whose pupils would benefit but where funds would be challenging (perhaps private establishments for those with certain special needs) then they should also be eligible.

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.)

Government funding would ensure that provision of residential outdoor education experiences does not come at the expense of other services which local authorities should be providing. Additionally currently some local authorities have maintained residential outdoor centres, while others have closed them, meaning the balance of costs is not evenly distributed. Central funding should help to redress this, and ensure provision is equal across Scotland. There should however be the possibility of parental contribution, as long as there is a robust way of assessing affordability. This could also be done on the principle of "pay what you can afford" - with an indicator of what the costs are for the week.

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?

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.

I am not able to tick a single box for this question, as it doesn't specify whose costs are being increased. The costs for those paying for the provision would increase overall, as currently there is not provision across the board. However the costs for some centres would decrease, if they are receiving additional funds because the number of students attending has increased. I am also aware of at least one outdoor centre whose management team are given a fixed budget to spend on staff - when that budget is used up they cannot employ more staff, even if the employment of more staff would allow them to bring in revenue from running additional activities. Increasing the amount of activities being run would therefore technically be an increase in costs, but it is also an increase in profit.

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 should be assessment to ensure the quality of the education provision, but this must be done by an organisation that understands what they are assessing, and in particular recognises that outcomes are often qualitative not quantitative.

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.

The wider the age range the better, 12-16 is arguably the most critical but the benefits would extend well beyond that age range.

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.

The outdoors is currently not a diverse environment. In particular those from deprived backgrounds and ethnic minorities often report feeling unwelcome and unrepresented in the outdoors, while those with disabilities may feel they face insurmountable barriers, and outdoor provision at leadership level is often male-dominated. Residential outdoor education, if combined with support for those centres in increasing the diversity of their staff, would have a very positive effect on improving equality in the outdoors.

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

The broadening of provision, alongside financial models that ensure cost is not a barrier for any child, will ensure that this is seen as something which everyone does.

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?

Those working in the outdoors care for the outdoors, and for the natural world. Passing on this care, especially to those who may only access the outdoors, is vital. Especially since the pandemic, rural areas have been blighted by issues of littering, including leaving remains of fires. This is primarily due to a lack of knowledge and understanding. Outdoor education also helps connect people to the outdoors, and without connection there is no care.

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