

# 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).**

Scouts Scotland is one of the largest co-educational youth work charities in Scotland supporting 46000 members. our members span from 4 years old to adults and take part in an outdoor based youth work programme designed to develop skills for life for our members and help them become the best version of themselves as possible. Scouting takes place in almost every community in Scotland and is a universal provision open to all. Our residential outdoor centres had a pre-pandemic foot fall of 69,142 made up of a mix of schools, scouts and other youth groups.

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).

Scouts Scotland

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 are fully supportive of statutory provision for all young people to access outdoor learning. We feel that the bill is in keeping with Scouting's principles and values and drive for universal access to outdoors programmes. We look forward to working with government to define a clearer understanding of the provision while providing clarity around the mechanisms of delivery and funding to reassure as many young people benefit as part of a lifelong provision towards outdoor learning.

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.

We feel Legislation is required. The decline in local authority run outdoor centres highlights the pressure on LA's and shows a decline in the value placed on residential. If funds were not required as a statutory provision funds may end up diverted or prioritised in other places as organisations make decisions on the value of outdoor learning against other priorities.

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.**

We feel there is no problem with the requirement for independent schools being legally required to provide the same minimum provision as part of a universal provision yet we would not support any funding being directed to the independent sector. We feel strongly about equity but feel most independent schools will already be providing this level of provision and funding would be better placed where required.

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.**

It is vital that someone is ultimately responsible and should be identified. We feel the education authority are best positioned to provide the statutory provision inline with local rules and requirements for each educational provision.

## Funding

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

In some other way

**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.)**

The funding should be specific, provided by Scottish government and ring fenced for delivery through local authorities directly to schools. Every attempt should be made to limit third parties and intermediary's involvement in the funding and projects. A situation like NCS funding south of the border should be avoided where funds were diluted at multiple stages before getting to the young people who could benefit from the funding. Money should take as direct as possible route to reach where it is needed. Another option is Funding to be ring fenced and delivered with PEF funding to allow head teacher the decision of when and where to use funds.

## 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.**

clarity is needed on the full extend of the provision requested and levels of delivery needed before a cost assessment can be undertaken. A minimum level of requirements and standards would need to be set to ensure value for money and quality of provision. There may be costs upfront depending on the level of provision requested and requirements to expand equipment stores to meet demand an ensure sustainability in line with business increase.

## 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.**

At a time when the industry is trying to move away from a formal inspection processes from HSE we are cautious with bringing in additional inspections and red tape. We agree some frame work or guidance in level of provision is required but formalising inspection with HMIE could be a step backwards. We would be uncomfortable with a provision without quality measurement to allow customers and parents to know we work at a set standard but could these be accommodated as part of the replacement for AALA or a self-evaluation/ peer evaluation system. This could substantially reduce the cost for inspection processes and help reduce costs.

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 opposed

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

I think caution is needed in this area. There is a risk schools will use this as a method to fund DofE provision and not necessarily use it for residential provision at this age range. This would risk emulating the English NCS provision and duplicating all of its faults. I think the message needs to be about supporting the continuum of outdoor learning from early years all the way through to adult participation and life long involvement in outdoor activities. Some providers will not be used to working with large groups of teenagers and will not be set up for some of the challenges or logistics regarding equipment and resources to work with these age ranges, many will take it in their stride but others will struggle. by using ages and not year groups you risk splitting classes as S1 could have 11 and 12 year olds in the group thus we think flexibility needs to be built in to the options or be clear on year groups being targeted.

## 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.

As an organisation we are open to all and would work with all young people. We support the provision across all protected characteristic but acknowledge there will be possible areas which this could be difficult and additional thought to how this provision is undertaken. We have plans in place to work with young people from all protected characteristics and we will take appropriate and reasonable steps to ensure all young people have access.

I feel some centres in Scotland are not as accessible as they could be regarding access and accessible activities. Across the UK there are specialist centres who work with larger groups with disabilities and impairments and there may be a need to develop similar provision in Scotland or offer to include specialist provision to ensure all young people have the same level of provision available particularly to insure additional needs schools can be catered for?

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

A universal provision would ensure all young people benefited. Step should be taken to ensure centres had equipment to borrow and all participants were given all the provision and support needed be able to take part.

## 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?

I think the proposed steps will work to address some of the points raised such as linking young people to the environment and creating connectiveness. The residential experience could work as a catalyst to further work on these areas once they have been given a real-life working context to the learning. I think steps would be required to ensure any provision is not viewed as being in place of other work such as Learning For Sustainability or other initiatives and should be viewed as an addition rather than a replacement.

## 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)?

As scouts Scotland we support the principles of the bill and what it is trying to achieve. I think care needs to be taken in some areas to prevent it being manipulated to fit the current provision and ensure it keeps to its principles. I feel that if it is to be successful there needs to be continued work across the political spectrum for cross party agreement on this subject area and not to allow this to become a party-political issue. The bill has potential to have long lasting and meaningful impact on the lives of young people across Scotland and give our young people a step up in life when it is most vitally needed. Value needs to be placed on the wider life skills gained from residential experience and the understand of other pupils values based decisions which may differ to the students personal values. These step foster understanding and tolerance across society and can help to build more adaptable and resilient communities I which we live.

We look forward to understanding the funding model and how the provision can be funded equitably. Funding cannot be siphoned from other areas and progress created at the detriment of other services like youthwork.