

# 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**

Almost 60 years ago I benefitted from an outdoor education residential course and have for the last two decades been involved as a volunteer, providing sail training experiences for young people. I was formerly a primary school head teacher and elected independent member of Shetland Islands Council.

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).

Peter James Campbell

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.**

Seeing the benefits which young people can gain from residential outdoor experiences. I am disappointed that in the consultation document on reference is made to sail training as a sea based outdoor education experience and that its focus is very much on the provision of land based services. Sail training has a proven record of providing meaningful learning experiences which benefit young people and this is well documented through academic study, eg Edinburgh University

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.

To successfully introduce residential outdoor education in the school curriculum, it is necessary for the provision to be enshrined in law.

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.

Fully supportive

**Please give reasons for your response.**

The vast majority of young people are part of the public education system. In the private education sector there is at least one Scottish school which I am aware of in which outdoor education is very much part of the ethos of the school, but participation may well be funded through additional fees being met by the participants' family.

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.**

Residential outdoor education comes at a cost and would require to be funded by the Scottish Government, separately from the block grant funding which already exists, so that the provision can be made without the dilution of other education services within a council's budget.

## 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

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

**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.)**

See previous answer. Ring fenced funding would be essential.

## 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.**

While there would certainly be some increase in costs in a local authority's education expenditure. there would be reductions in other expenditure areas with the budget or in other services as there should be an expected reduction in expenditure on mental health and well-being services for young 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.**

A quality framework is essential to ensure public confidence in the service. In addition to the role which HMIE should have, inspectors should also be able to advise other schools and authorities of best practice which they become aware of, so that a proven service can be provided at a national level.

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.**

In the post primary school period of education, young people experience significant changes as they progress through their teenage years. With the pressures which have increased on young people during the Covid pandemic, putting significant additional pressure on mental health and well-being of individuals

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?

and the support services, where available, there is no better age group to offer residential outdoor education to.

## 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.

If society aspires for equality, there is no better way to bring young people together and understand the differences which exist and accept that not everyone is the same than to provide them with an opportunity to spend five days and four nights in a residential outdoor education/sail training situation.

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

By providing sufficient funding from the Scottish Government to ensure that aspirations can be met.

## 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?

Positive benefits in the protection of the environment would be achieved as the participants who would develop an understanding of the environment. The physical activity involved would have positive health benefits, while the cooperation required would contribute to a just society. In a sail training situation, an understanding the marine environment and marine pollution is developed, along with an appreciation of the power of the elements and how they can be harnessed for benefit, while throughout the experience participants are constantly cooperating to achieve group goals as well as learning new skills.

## 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)?

In the post Covid pandemic period, there is a clear need to address the issues which have been highlighted over the last two years in relation to the mental health and well-being of young people. The passing of a bill into law would be a landmark moment for the Scottish Parliament and give young Scots an opportunity to move forward with confidence, as evidenced by comments they and their parents make in relation to their sailing experiences.