

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".)

Residential outdoor third-sector provider

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

Undergraduate in Psychology & Business, MSc Postgraduate in Outdoor Education (both Uni of Edin). 20 years working for the Outward Bound Trust.

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).

Freda Fallon

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.

Personal experience of growing up hillwalking, summer camp residentials and loving the outdoors – despite growing up in an affluent area, as the youngest of four children, to a single parent who worked full-time, we are lucky we all connected through the outdoors.

- MSc in Outdoor Education from Edinburgh University researching the impact of residential on young people and learning of the relationships, resilience and confidence that resulted.

-20 years of working for the Outward Bound Trust, from Instructor (8 years) and Education Development Manager (12 years). Working alongside Education (schools, colleges, universities and youth groups) to tailor programmes for Scottish young people. I have seen the impact of residential first hand as an instructor, but now hear from Educators the impact they see on their young people.

The most recent was from 1st July 2022 (at the end of the academic year):

"It is worth noting Freda that we recently had an Education Scotland Recovery visit, which was like a mini inspection, mainly focusing on continuity in learning and pupil wellbeing following the pandemic. They were incredibly positive about the impact the trips to Loch Eil had had on our pupils. They spoke to a group of staff, and separately to a group of pupils, all of whom were glowing in describing the positive impact the weeks had on relationships and wellbeing. To top it off they came to our celebration evening on the Wednesday night and one of our pupil speakers got up and said, in front of the audience of 800, that the undoubted highlight of his time in S2 was his trip to Loch Eil. Great to see that the value of what we achieve together is recognised." Thom Sherrington, DHT Bucksburn Academy

I am convinced if the Curriculum for Excellence recognises all learning for a young person, within the curriculum there should be scope for a residential as an entitlement, as an opportunity for all. This is not currently the case, as stated in the bill, as free school meals increase the number of young people experiencing a residential decrease.

Outdoor education in Scotland has strong roots with experiences mapped against school ambitions for their young people. It has strongest impact when not a stand alone experience, the bill would make sure that a residential was plausible for all, and part of the offer of education. As stated above in the quote, for those who do get the experience it can be a highlight of their year and create memories for life. You only had to listen to the parliament debate on saving your outdoor centres in the pandemic to hear the cross-party support given. This was mainly given through personal anecdotes and stories of adventure the members had experienced themselves. They were lucky, but not everyone is lucky enough at the moment to get a residential and it is within Scottish Government's power to chance this.

Increasingly, there is the environmental imperative. We cannot expect young people to care for our environment if they have not experienced it. Being immersed on residential is a life changing experience. With Scotland hoping to lead the way in renewable technology (& there is no reason we cannot), then combining an outdoor residential within the Developing Scotland's Young Workforce agenda experiences makes perfect sense. Let's empower young people by giving them confidence.

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 is required so the benefits for all can be realised. I work across all 32 authorities organising residentials and currently how many young people get a residential differs. Legislation recognises the educational benefits of a residential giving it a place within the education system.

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.

At the Outward Bound Trust I work with all schools and work with a number of Scottish independent schools. All young people benefit from a residential and gain different things from it. Within the

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independent schools it does seem that if they are not coming to Outward Bound they are still doing something in the way of a residential. The provision is more universal for young people at independents so the Bill may have less impact on changing what currently happens. They are also not funded by the Government, so this legislation may be less important for independent school pupils.

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?

Partially supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

While experience tells me we have excellent educators, LEA governance and leaders. We also have historical providers that have partnered across all authorities. Do we need some grant-aided national charitable providers, as well as local authority provision specific to areas? Charities often raise money to support young people, which could make the Scottish Government money go further. PEF was decided to go direct to Head Teachers, I wonder should the decision also be given to Head Teachers of where they attend. LEAs manage quality by having approved provider frameworks currently and I can see this would continue.

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.)

This is an educational experience, to help Scottish young people flourish. In line with other statutory parts of Education being fully funded this should be too.

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.

- Most outdoor residential experiences are currently tailored to the educational context of a school and

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their young people. I cannot imagine this could be bettered and therefore, not a significant increase in cost to make sure the residential is embedded within education.

- The unit cost of an outdoor residential may increase depending on what the resulting quality framework requires for providers and schools. However as much of the provision is currently of a good standard this should not be a significant increase.

- Clearly if the Government is funding a residential for every young person during their school career then there is an additional cost to the public purse. However as laid out in the consultation document this might amount to £24m, a mere 0.67% of a overall Scottish Education budget of £3.57 billion.

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.

- This would form part of our Scottish Education entitlement and therefore inspections would be welcomed as with any other experience to make sure our young people are having the best possible learning/ impact for their residential.

- This is alongside other current, outdoor residential quality assurance like the Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC) badge, AALs, NGBs. I remember learning at University the only industry more heavily regulated than the outdoor industry was the nuclear industry. Outdoor residential providers are very used to making sure their work is to a high standard. As detailed in my opening quote, HMIE are already interested in the impact of a residential when they are inspecting schools, it makes a natural extension of this to visit residential providers.

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.

This is a good age range for young people to have a variety of experiences available. From Transition in S1 to John Muir Award, wider Youth Work certification and personal development aims in S2 & 3. I rarely see schools planning residential in S4 & S5 for their pupils (due to exams for many). However, in S6 we see another transition/ Leadership experiences open up as young people prepare to leave school so perhaps an upward extension to 17 might be helpful for senior pupil leadership programmes.

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 part of Education it is a responsibility, where possible to provide for all young people and make sure the provision is inclusive. There may be some cost eg for wheelchair users of making grounds accessible, but I cannot see any other issues.

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

Taking away the cost of a residential for families will make it a more accepted part of a normal educational experience, not an add on. This is so important for families in accepting and sending their children on residential - it will become just something everyone does and not questioned, so the benefits will be more accepted for everyone.

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?

Increasingly this is the area that I see the Bill having the most impact. Scotland has a real ambition to be leaders of Green technology, embracing renewables and leading the way in Green jobs as we divest from oil. I believe the bill will positively impact on environmental and economic sustainability, and help to create a strong, health and just society. • Outdoor residential develop young people's environmental awareness and pro-environmental behaviours. The starting point for environmental sustainability is for people to emotionally connect with the natural environment, and outdoor residential experiences provide a perfect learning environment to achieve this. How can we expect young people to care for our environment if they have not experienced the fantastic wider experiences Scotland has to offer. Whilst there is environmental impact of travel to/from a residential experience this is far outweighed by the resulting increased pro-environmental behaviour. There are green travel options with Loch Eil, near Fort William having it's own train station. In addition many outdoor providers are already taking action to reduce their environment impact (eg The Outward Bound Trust has made a commitment to work towards net zero), and there is a great opportunity to support them to progress faster with this.

- Outdoor residential develop the skills and attributes to be effective in the workplace, and will help contribute to a sustainable and thriving economy.

- Outdoor residential foster positive wellbeing and help young people become more physically active. Physically and emotionally healthy citizens help lead towards a strong, healthy and just society.

We need to address our environmental impact as individuals and I believe a residential is a step that helps with this. It is one of my values based reasons for still working at the Outward Bound Trust that I can help with this aim.

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)?

Scotland is a country with a fantastic landscape, opportunities for young people to explore with our access laws, future which is bright with reducing our environmental impact and becoming a proud leader in this area. This residential bill is a real statement of intent for linking Developing Young Workforce agendas, Learning for Sustainability agendas, reducing the inequity of experience in education and being aspirational for our young peoples' futures. I sincerely hope we see this happen.