

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.

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

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).

High school teacher and DofE manager

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).

Alistair Carter

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.

I have seen both as a teacher and an outdoor education provider the invaluable nature of this type of opportunity. It MUST be part of our education system, not an added extra.

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 will guarantee it, but all organisations involved will require guidance, funding and support to truly deliver this objective correctly.

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 reality is that private schools already offer this, and this gives their young people an advantage over others.

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.

For this to be delivered in a way that best suits the needs of the young people, rather than simply ticking a box, Schools themselves will need to be involved or have the responsibility to provide the outdoor education. The bill also needs to be clear what "residential" means. Would a DofE expedition with students camping over night count towards this? Does it need to be a solid week or a week in total? (There are merits to both).

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.)

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

I think funding should be provided by the Scottish government (in short additional funding needs to be provided for the actual cost of these experiences. The management mechanisms are already there (safety committees etc. because local Authorities already manage the safe delivery of outdoor education and residential trips). This the money needs to be ring fenced to ensure it goes directly to the costs of delivering the programmes not high level management.

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.

There will be costs for these provisions. But there are so much flexibility in the term "residential" experience that local authorities and schools should be able to provide some form of experience whatever. A week of camping is a very different cost to a week in an outdoor centre.

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.

A quality framework is important however the most important part of any quality assurance programme is knowledge by its creators. With residential experiences covering everything from walking to sailing, the quality framework is not simple, and I don't think should sit with HMIE. The MCA would be better placed to ensure offshore sailing experiences are suitably run, AALA or mountain training Scotland would be better placed than HMIE to quality assure many activities.

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 start. But the transition from primary to high school is a very important stage and if the age

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?

range was extended to include younger students this would aid that transition. The bill should also consider whether multiple opportunities need to be available. Primary to high school is an important stage, as is movement from BGE to certificate and high school to post 16 studies - UCAS applications for example.

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.

I think used correctly and if schools and other organisations have the correct flexibility this law could have a very positive outcome for all young people, many of whom have been mentioned specifically above. But schools and youth workers will need to flexibility to provide opportunities when they deem they are best needed rather than "to LA have said all S1s are going next week to an outdoor centre" for example.

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

The "funding" is provided per pupil, and held against that pupil till spent. Schools, LAs etc aren't just given a pot of money to spend, instead there is "£500 allocated to each young person in Scotland aged 12-16" some socio economic groups may also be given additional funds a "top up/premium" for example as they may need a more specialist (thus potentially expensive) experience.

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?

The potential is a positive impact on all of these areas. A better understanding and appreciation for the environment; better academic and social skills naturally creates a more sustainable economy (young people taught to love the environment are more likely to pass that onto their future children, without the need for funding.

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