

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

I am a Mountain Leader. I have run a small Scottish charity which took inner city teenagers into the wild places of Scotland. I am also a volunteer instructor at a private-sector residential outdoor centre.

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).

Ian Logan

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 the very positive outcomes in the lives of young teenagers from their experiences in the outdoors. I will give 2 examples:

1. We were taking a group of teenagers on a two night expedition and they initially did not want to take part. However after the first night they all started working together with the result that when they returned to the school their teachers said "What have you done to them? They've changed - for the better!"
2. A friend of mine, also a Mountain Leader, started doing Forest School with kids in Clackmannanshire before Forest Schools became known. He said that after a while he realised that the kids who had been with him were performing better at school.

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.

Several years ago the SNP said the same thing, that every child should have a week's outdoor experience. That has come to nothing and I think that the positive benefit of the Bill's aims really needs to be addressed.

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 opposed

Please give reasons for your response.

There is a real problem with this provision. For the last few years many local authority outdoor centres have been closed with a subsequent loss of skilled instructors, etc. Even countryside rangers have been made redundant. It is the private sector outdoor centres that have continued to work with schools across Scotland. Consequently I think this needs to be thought through a lot more.

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I'm not sure of the best way to ensure that the outdoor provision is implemented. Given that education authorities have cut back on provision does not look good.

Funding

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

By parents/carers meeting food and accommodation costs, and all other costs being met from public funds

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.)

I think that the ideal would be government funding but am unsure how that would be funded (I'm not a political person). However if parents/carers and even schools themselves were to provide a certain level of funding then I think that would be a good balance. Those who already receive financial support should also receive support for the outdoors as well.

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 clearly be costs involved in providing outdoor education. I've no idea how public funding works but given the very positive results from outdoor education then I think the Scottish government needs to get to grips with this and recognise the positive benefit to the nation as a whole.

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.

There is already legislation for outdoor centres which ensures the safety, etc of their staff and activities (a lot is based on risk assessment). This involves an annual assessment by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority. Perhaps the quality could be incorporated with this?

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

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?

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

I think that it might be better to use the school class system e.g. Primary 7 - Secondary 3/4 as 11 and 12 year olds would be in the same class year.

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.

No Response

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

If someone is receiving financial support e.g. school meals, then that support should continue for this provision.

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?

There are at least two areas where this provision will have a positive impact on individuals and hence on society:

1. Teamwork - in the outdoors a lot of time is spent working in teams, whether it is pitching a tent, assisting in a climbing wall, team challenges, etc. Teamwork is an integral part of today's work environment and the more experience a teenager has of this before starting work then the better for them.
2. Risk Assessment - Again in the outdoor environment there is a lot of risk assessment e.g. when walking in the hills or moorland. The ability to assess the risk of any given situation e.g. climbing a ladder, is a very positive contribution to the safety and well-being of society.

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