

# 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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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

For over twenty years I managed one of Scotland's largest Council-run residential outdoor education centres. My teaching qualification was a joint one for Secondary Biology and Outdoor Education. I am now retired.

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).

Andy Beveridge

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.**

During the 60s, 70s, and 80s Scotland was a world leader with regard to curricular and extra-curricular outdoor education, from locally-based onsite and offsite opportunities to residential provision. This was mainly Local Authority provision. Amongst a number of factors such as the almost total lack of support within the 5-14 Curriculum, working conditions dispute of educational staff, and the year-on-year reduction of budgets the sector was seen as non-essential and therefore in the thirty years since then there has been almost total obliteration of Council-run residential service. The charitable and private sectors have become the dominant part of the provision. Much of this provision is good or very good, but it does not have access to the educational quality assurance mechanisms that the local authorities must adhere to. The reduction in provision means that not every child and young person has the opportunity. I strongly believe that well-structured residential courses seen as an integral part of the curriculum are essential to every individual's social, emotional and personal development, and an environmental awareness away from the home patch. This Bill will help to resurrect something to which every child should be able to take part, regardless of their home circumstances and family finances.

It seems strange to me that whilst counties leading the world in educational attainment have embraced outdoor residential experiences as part of the curriculum as essential, the landscape in Scotland has in effect gone the other way, with less opportunity for pupils than previously.

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.

It is difficult to see alternative ways to ensure the opportunity is open to every child. Strengthening the Education Scotland Inspection and Review framework and guidance to schools to make residential weeks to be seen as a 'essential component' may be one way, but it would not address the fundamental financial issue of how schools could ensure that all pupils could be included.

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

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.**

Whilst I agree with the intention, I also feel that there should be an onus on Head Teachers to establish arrangements within their powers to make the structural changes to allow it to happen. Whilst the majority of HTs see the impact and significance of the residential experience, I was always aware that there was a small proportion of HTs who saw residential as an inconvenience to the 'normal' operation of their schools.

## 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.)**

I think the LAs should claim from SG retrospectively for the number of pupil days. Schools would claim from their LA the time of the trip because providers need a financial commitment up front for the service they provide. Grant-aided schools would claim direct from SG retrospectively. This mechanism would allow a proper audit trail of numbers attending (by comparing with information given to SG by providers) and ensure the funding is being used for the correct purpose. If any LA considers opening a new provision the money would have to come from capital budgets, protecting this SG funding as revenue budget. If SG wished to explore the possibility of gaining funding from third parties (corporate, donors etc) this could be used to reduce the financial costs of the policy.

## 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?

a significant 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.**

This policy needs to be 'new money', not money taken from existing budgets.

## 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.**

I do think that the QA should be done through HMIE. If the experience is to be truly part of the curriculum it should be measured as such and will be a joint enterprise between the school and the provider.

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.**

Whilst I think that it would be great to offer the residential experience to all Secondary pupils, at present many residential are provided as a experience for P7 pupils. I am concerned about capacity within the sector if these were to continue and there are additional S1-S4 residential.

## 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 believe the sector could deal well with equalities. There may be cultural grounds for some parents to not wish their child to attend, but if the policy becomes embedded in the curriculum I strongly believe that parents will be persuaded that it is worthwhile to allow attendance.

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

If the policy is fully funded by SG I see no reason why there should be socio-economic barriers. I have heard it argued that parents would have to find additional funds for necessary clothing and equipment. I do not see this as a requirement as centres and schools are very adept at knowing and providing resources to pupils they know to be in need of support.

## 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 this policy would have nothing but positive impacts on the areas outlined. In particular the environmental impact should be very powerful for many of the pupils from urban environments who do not currently get to visit real and wild places will gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance and sheer beauty of Scotland's countryside. To quote, "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced" Sir David Attenborough

## 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)?

If we could just get more people more active in our wonderful country there will be substantial benefits to the health and well-being of the population. This will help to reduce the long term financial burden on the NHS and the care sector. This is not a policy that will work overnight, but will need to build the confidence of the populous over decades.