

2 February 2023

Dear colleagues

Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill: Consultation

In October this year, the Welsh Parliament agreed that I could introduce proposals for a new law in Wales, called the Outdoor Education (Wales) Bill.

The rationale behind the Bill is my aspiration to move residential Outdoor Education from being an enrichment, to being an entitlement. Residential Outdoor Education delivers long-lasting health and wellbeing benefits, whilst shaping our future generations for years to come, yet regrettably, too many don't get the opportunity to participate.

This Bill will establish a statutory duty on local authorities to ensure that all young people receiving maintained education are provided with the opportunity to experience residential Outdoor Education, for at least one week, at some stage during their school years. The Bill will also establish a statutory obligation for providers of maintained education to be allocated funding to enable them to do this. The intention is that the statutory obligation to ensure residential Outdoor Education is provided, would fall on those who are responsible for arranging the provision, i.e. local authorities in the case of maintained schools.

As part of the process, I now have until 26 November 2023 to introduce a Bill that meets that purpose. My proposed law will then be scrutinised in detail by the Senedd, before a final decision is taken on whether it should become law. If passed, the Bill would become the Outdoor Education (Wales) Act.

I am now consulting as widely as possible on my proposal. The attached document gives further background information and asks a number of questions about the proposal and how it might be developed. I want everyone who could be affected by this proposed Bill, who has views on it or has expertise, to contribute. I will consider all responses, which I hope will help inform my approach to drafting the Bill.

I would, therefore, be very grateful if you could find the time to contribute to this consultation and let me have your or your organisation's views on the proposed Bill and what it is seeking to achieve. I look forward to receiving any comments you wish to make by 17 March 2023.

Thank you for your time.

Yours faithfully



Sam Rowlands MS
Member of the Welsh Parliament for North Wales