

Education, Children and Young People Committee
Wednesday 10 September 2025
25th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

Schools (Residential Outdoor Education) (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

1. Liz Smith MSP introduced the [Schools \(Residential Outdoor Education\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) on 20 June 2024. The Education, Children and Young People's Committee has been designated as the lead committee for this Members' Bill at Stage 1.
2. The Bill establishes that all pupils in state and grant-aided schools will have the chance to experience at least four nights and five days of residential outdoor education during their school career.

Committee meeting

3. At this meeting, the Committee receive an update on issues related to the Bill from the following witnesses—
 - Minister for Children, Young People and the Promise;
 - Lewis Hedge, Deputy Director, Curriculum & Qualifications, Scottish Government;
 - Saskia Kearns, Team Leader, Learning for Sustainability and Outdoor Learning, Scottish Government; and
 - Kirstie McKerron, Scottish Government Legal Directorate.

Timescales

Stage 1

4. The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 1 and [published its report](#) on 4 February 2025, agreeing with the general principles of the Bill on a casting vote. The [Scottish Government responded](#) to the report on 26 March 2025.
5. The [Stage 1 debate](#) took place on 27 March 2025 and the Parliament agreed to the general principles of the Bill following a division (64 for, 1 against, 53 abstained, 10 did not vote).

Financial Resolution

6. As this Bill contains particular provisions affecting payments from the Scottish Consolidated Fund, no proceedings can be taken on the Bill after Stage 1 unless

the Parliament has, by resolution, agreed to the relevant provisions. That resolution is known as a “Financial Resolution”.

7. Only a member of the Scottish Government or a junior Scottish Minister can lodge a motion for a Financial Resolution and so the Scottish Government has a veto on whether any Bill that requires such a resolution makes progress.
8. Unless a motion is lodged within six months of the completion of Stage 1 i.e by 27 September 2025, and the Parliament agrees to it, this Bill will fall.

Correspondence

9. The Minister [wrote to the Committee](#) on 5 May 2025, setting out the key conditions that would have to be met, before there could be consideration on whether or not to lodge a Financial Resolution.
10. In addition, following the Stage 1 debate, Liz Smith MSP wrote to the Minister (copied to the Committee) on [a number of occasions](#) regarding ongoing discussions on various aspects of the Bill including a Financial Resolution and wrote most recently on [12 August 2025](#).

Committee Clerks September 2025