

1203

RIF rec'd 27/7

**RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM:
A CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOLS (NUTRITION AND
HEALTH PROMOTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

Please complete the details below and return it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately. Thank you for your help.

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1. Are you responding: (please delete (a) or (b))

(b) on behalf of a group/organisation? go to Q3 and then Q4

INDIVIDUALS

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website)?

Yes (go to 2b below)

No, not at all (We will treat your response as confidential)

2b. **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following)

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

ON BEHALF OF GROUPS OR ORGANISATIONS:

3. The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Executive library and/or on the Scottish Executive website). Are you also content for your **response** to be made available?

Yes

No (We will treat your response as confidential)

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

4. We will share your response internally with other Scottish Executive policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

Yes

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NHPC
Argyll and Bute



**CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOLS (NUTRITION AND HEALTH PROMOTION)
(SCOTLAND) BILL**

RESPONSE FROM ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

CONSULTATION ON THE SCHOOLS (NUTRITION AND HEALTH PROMOTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL

Question 1

Do you agree that local authorities should be under a duty to ensure that food and drinks which they provide in their schools, including nurseries, meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes No

Local authorities should operate within a guidance framework

Question 2

Where children are attending independent schools, and where the provision of food and drinks are arranged or funded, by a local authority, should the food and drinks meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes No

The establishment attended should be required to assume responsibility for this.

In principle, we agree that local authorities should, within a national guidance framework, ensure that food and drinks provided in establishments should meet defined nutrient standards.

In order to fulfil this requirement, in Argyll & Bute funding is essential to build and develop:-

- Our long term commitment to food quality in schools and preschool providers, including the commissioned sector.
- The capacity within our workforce to implement practice to a uniformly high standard.
- Effective partnership working with all stakeholders including parents and children and young people.

All of the above are challenges we must meet within the context of our rural and island communities.

Argyll and Bute Council covers the second largest geographical area of any Scottish local authority, stretching for over 100 miles from Appin in the north to Campbeltown in the south and more than 80 miles across from the island of Tiree in the west to Helensburgh in the east. It has six towns, 25 inhabited islands and over 3,000 miles of coastline. From its dispersed and diverse communities 14,000 children are served by 80 primary schools, 10 secondary schools, 3 learning centres and 76 preschool education establishments.

Question 3

Should local authorities be under a duty to promote uptake of school meals in their schools, including free school meals?

Yes No

Work within a framework of guidance for continuous improvement.

Extending the role of local authorities to promote the uptake of school meals, in addition to free school meals, will require substantial new investment from national funding in order to:-

- Provide and maintain suitable kitchen and dining facilities in all establishments.
- Recruit and train staff.
- Monitor and evaluate the quality of the service and levels of uptake.
- Promote successfully school meals to parents, children and young people.

It should be noted that within Argyll & Bute, the national average costs of £1.77 to produce a school meal is exceeded in 90% of our schools.

Question 4

Should local authorities be under a duty to ensure that those taking free school meals can do so anonymously, as far as is practicable?

Yes No

Through meeting the recommendations in "Hungry for Success", all schools in Argyll & Bute have reviewed existing practice in order that children and young people entitled to a free school meal can do so anonymously, as far as is practicable.

However, to address this duty within secondary schools will require greater investment to develop systems, such as cashless catering, that will maximise pupil anonymity.

Question 5

Should local authorities have the power to provide children in local authority schools with free drinks, fruit, vegetables, bread or cereal based snacks, which meet defined nutrient standards?

Yes No

In principal, we agree that local authorities should have the power to provide free, or at charge drinks, fruit, vegetables, bread or cereal based snacks, that meet the defined nutrient standards. However, further discussion will be required on the practical application of this power within Argyll & Bute with its comparatively low number of dispersed children in a large number of small rural schools

The relationship between the local authority who have the power and providers in establishments, who have day-to-day management, requires further discussion and clarification:-

- Head teachers who have the ability to contract independently for services e.g. breakfast clubs, vending machines.
- The catering contractors within establishments whether in-house or external.
- NPDO Project schools.

Question 6

Should there be a duty on Scottish Ministers and local authorities to endeavour to ensure that all local authority schools are health promoting schools?

Yes No

We support the proposal that Scottish Ministers and local authorities should endeavour to ensure that all schools are health promoting schools but do not agree that placing a duty on Scottish Ministers and local authorities is a necessary requirement. If Ministers are minded to place a duty of this nature on Local Authorities, then the implications thereof should be fully costed and funded by the Scottish Executive.

Question 7

Any other comments?

In summary Argyll & Bute Council: Community Services is committed to improving the health and nutrition of our children and young people within the context of our health promoting schools.

The consultation document on the Schools (Nutrition and Health Promotion) (Scotland) Bill, details that duties and powers to be placed upon local authorities will be met from existing funding and resources.

We are clear that the practical application of these extended duties and powers cannot be envisaged within existing levels of funding.