

## **Note of meeting with Adventure Activity stakeholders**

**British Mountaineering Council, Manchester 20/4/17**

### Present

Philip White - HSE  
Cameron Adam - HSE  
Frances Kelly - HSE  
Ian Lewis - Campaign for Adventure  
Mike Rosser - Adventure Activity Industry Advisory Committee  
John Hamilton - Scottish Adventure Activities Forum  
Paul Donovan - Wales Activity Tourism Organisation  
Martin Smith - English Outdoor Council

Meeting with industry to discuss the implications of the key findings of the first phase of the review of AALA and the next steps

### **Background**

Cameron Adam set out the purpose of the meeting and the context in light of the HSE/Industry teleconference on 7 April. This was to get further clarification on the participants views of the shape and form of an industry accreditation scheme within the context of the findings of the on line survey and the implications of the aspirations expressed by respondents.

### **HSE position**

Philip White set out HSE's support for children and young people's participation in adventure activities and potential options for the future of AALA based on the aspirations expressed in the online survey. He also set out possible constraints on continuing with the current statutory based scheme, citing government policy on extending existing regulations or the introduction of new regulations.

Philip described the benefits which may accrue from a move away from a fixed legislative solution to an industry based accreditation scheme. These included:

- a. Future proofing – new activities could be added without lengthy legislative change
- b. Streamlining – one scheme across the sector
- c. Reduced bureaucracy accruing from multiple visits
- d. Potential for a consistent UK wide scheme
- e. Potential for inclusion of quality considerations in the assessment of providers
- f. Increased efficiency and flexibility to adapt the scheme to reflect changes in the sector

He emphasised that if a fully functioning non-statutory run scheme was set up then the relevant AALA legislation would likely be repealed, although HSE confirmed that AALA will continue in its current form until then and that whether there was a statutory or non-statutory scheme, the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSW Act 1974) framework will underpin any safety requirements.

Frances Kelly confirmed that the contract with TQS Ltd to provide the licencing service has been extended until September 2019.

Philip confirmed HSE's commitment to work with industry on the development of an industry run scheme and re-emphasised HSE's desire to support and facilitate a thriving and safe outdoor sector.

### **Funding**

There was discussion around future funding. Considering the current direction of travel within government, HSE's view is that the existing government subsidy is unlikely to be extended beyond the current contract with TQS Ltd. If however industry moves to an industry run scheme which can be demonstrated to be cost effective in the long term, transitional funding might be available to assist implementation. John Hamilton asked whether financial remuneration would be available for industry representatives engaged in this work. This will have to be considered when the nature of the work is better understood.

### **Devolved Governments**

John set out the Scottish Government's position, which was a preference for continuation of a statutory scheme, although they would be open to an alternative provided that it was sufficiently robust, provided equivalent levels of assurance, had the support of the Scottish stakeholders and was backed by HSE.

Paul Donovan indicated that whilst he couldn't speak officially for the Welsh government, he was of the view that similar views were held in Wales.

### **Requirements of a successful non-statutory scheme**

There was general discussion around what an industry scheme might look like and the opportunities it could provide. Cameron then summarised the views expressed regarding the key components of an industry operated accreditation scheme. It was agreed that any scheme:

- a. Must be underpinned by the requirements of the HSW Act 1974 and any other relevant health and safety regulations
- b. Must not fall below the standards set by the existing regulations
- c. Must provide appropriate levels of reassurance to users.
- d. Must have HSE/Government support
- e. Must have broad industry support
- f. Must allow mutual recognition across other comparable existing national governing body schemes.
- g. Must be recognised and branded as the industry standard.

### **Participation and inclusion**

Paul illustrated his views on key participants for development and implementation of an industry scheme.

John requested confirmation that the industry working group would be broadened beyond those present. Mike Rosser agreed.

### **A functioning non-statutory scheme**

As an example of an industry run scheme Cameron illustrated how the current regulatory regime for fairgrounds operated. This is an industry based scheme with HSE support and oversight, set out in HSE guidance and underpinned by health and safety law. Cameron advised that HSE would be willing to explain this further if necessary.

### **Next steps**

#### HSE

- a) Prepare a note of the meeting that could be used by attendees to report back to their organisations.
- b) Martin Temple, HSE Chair will meet with Sir Julian Brazier on Monday 24 April.
- c) HSE Board will be taking a paper at its meeting on 3 May updating them on the review of AALA and to agree the next phase of the review.
- d) Full survey results would be fed back by webinar during May and be made available on the AALA website
- e) HSE to keep stakeholders, consultees and others updated on next steps following the Board meeting

#### Industry representatives

- a) Industry reps to report back to their organisations on the meeting