

## **Update on AALA Review 1 November 2018**

### **Background**

On 20 June 2018 the HSE Board considered a paper on the feedback from the recent Discussion Document on the future of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and the Adventure Activity Licensing Regulations (AALR). The options in the Discussion Document were as follows:

- 1) Retain the AALR regulations and current scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and increase fees.
- 2) Retain the AALR regulations and current scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, but increase fees and extend the activities in-scope
- 3) Removal of the AALR regulations and move to an industry-led; non-statutory; not-for-profit scheme underpinned by the Health and Safety at work etc. Act 1974, to provide assurance to users of outdoor activities.

The Discussion Document did not ask respondents to state a preference for any of the options, but asked respondents to say which options they found acceptable or unacceptable and why. The number of acceptable/unacceptable responses for each option was not significantly different for each option. Analysis of the written feedback was important in identifying the aspirations of respondents in relation to the sort of system they wanted to see in the future. The feedback also provided insight into the perceived pros and cons of the options.

### **What did the Board decide?**

The Board requested additional information, and at a meeting on 12 September 2018 and following discussion of the information provided, the HSE Board approved the Option 3 proposal.

### **Meeting with the Minister of State for disabled people, Sarah Newton MP**

The Minister has confirmed her support for the HSE Board's decision to pursue Option 3. HSE will continue to engage with the Devolved Governments and stakeholders throughout this process. The AALA team thank you for your patience and remind stakeholders that the final decision rests with Parliament and it will take a number of years before we reach a conclusion.

We will keep you informed by providing updates on HSE's website.

There are no immediate changes to the licensing scheme. Licence holders should continue to engage with AALS and ensure they have a valid licence for activities in scope of the regulations. You will be notified well in advance of any changes and if necessary any transition arrangements to ensure that things continue to run smoothly

### **AALS Retender**

The Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) is presently operated by TQS Ltd, a not-for-profit company under contract to the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA). The current contract with TQS Ltd will end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

HSE will shortly be announcing its intention to retender. The procurement exercise will be based on the current legislation. A three month formal procurement exercise is expected to start around March/April 2019.