

# **School Holidays (Meals and Activities) Bill**

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Require local authorities to facilitate the delivery of programmes that provide free meals and activities for children during school holidays; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Power to pilot free meals and activities during school holidays**

- (1) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument establish a pilot programme for the facilitation and coordination by local authorities in England of free meals and activities during school holidays to children in areas of high deprivation. 5
- (2) In this section “areas of high deprivation” means areas in England identified as the most deprived in the English Indices of Deprivation.
- (3) Regulations under this section may in particular —
  - (a) specify minimum standards for meals and activities during school holidays, and 10
  - (b) specify criteria that organisations involved in the delivery of meals and activities during school holidays must meet.
- (4) Before making regulations under this section, the Secretary of State must consult such persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (5) The Secretary of State may make regulations under this section relating to a local authority only on an application by that authority. 15
- (6) Regulations under this section may be made in relation to one or more local authorities in England.
- (7) Regulations under this section must specify a period at the end of which they cease to apply. 20
- (8) The period must not be longer than twelve months beginning with the day on which the regulations come into force.

- (9) The Secretary of State may by regulations make transitional provision in connection with the lapsing of regulations under this section.

## 2 Review of pilot

- (1) The Secretary of State must conduct a review of any pilot programmes established by virtue of section 1. 5
- (2) The Secretary of State shall lay a copy of the report of the review under this section before each House of Parliament within twelve months of the day on which the first regulations made under section 1 cease to apply.

## 3 Duty of local authorities: free meals and activities during school holidays

- (1) A local authority must facilitate and coordinate the provision of programmes, during school holidays, that provide meals and activities for children in their area. 10
- (2) In exercising its duty under subsection (1), a local authority shall, in respect of the days of those activities, secure the provision of a free meal to a child if a request for the provision of such meals has been made by or on behalf of that child to the authority. 15

## 4 Meals during school holidays: use of surplus stock from supermarkets and food manufacturers

- (1) Where a local authority secures the provision of a meal during school holidays in accordance with section 3, the authority may provide for the meal to be sourced from surplus food stock from supermarkets and food manufacturers, subject to the conditions in subsections (2) and (3). 20
- (2) The condition in this subsection is that the surplus food stock provided to the local authority meets requirements established by regulations under section 114A(4) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (requirements for food and drink provided on school premises etc). 25
- (3) The condition in this subsection is that the surplus food stock provided to the local authority is handled and prepared in accordance with guidance produced by the Food Standards Agency regarding the safe handling and preparation of such food. 30

## 5 Requirements for meals and activities during school holidays

- (1) The relevant national authority may by regulations made by statutory instrument prescribe requirements for meals and activities during school holidays provided for in accordance with section 3.
- (2) Regulations under this section may in particular – 35
- (a) specify minimum standards for meals and activities during school holidays,
  - (b) specify criteria that organisations involved in the delivery of meals and activities during school holidays must meet, and
  - (c) establish a portal for information, guidance and training resources on the delivery of meals and activities during school holidays to prescribed requirements. 40

- (3) Before making regulations under this section, the relevant national authority must consult such persons as the relevant national authority considers appropriate.

## 6 Commencement of duty of local authorities under section 3

- (1) The relevant national authority may by regulations made by statutory instrument bring into force the duty in section 3 in respect of all local authorities to establish programmes, during school holidays, that provides meals and activities for children in their area. 5
- (2) Regulations under this section may only be made once the report of the Secretary of State under section 2(2) has been laid before each House of Parliament. 10

## 7 Definitions

In this Act—

“*school holidays*”, in relation to a school, means days on which at that school there is no school session, other than Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays; 15

“*relevant national authority*” means—

- (a) in relation to England, the Secretary of State, and  
(b) in relation to Wales, the Welsh Ministers.

## 8 Regulations 20

- (1) A statutory instrument containing regulations made by the Secretary of State under sections 1 and 5 may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations made by the Secretary of State under section 6 is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament. 25
- (3) A statutory instrument containing regulations made by the Welsh Ministers under section 5 may not be made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before and approved by a resolution of the National Assembly of Wales.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations made by the Welsh Ministers under section 6 is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the National Assembly of Wales. 30

## 9 Financial provisions

*There is to be paid out of money provided by Parliament—*

- (a) *any expenditure incurred under or by virtue of this Act by the Secretary of State, and* 35  
(b) *any increase attributable to this Act in the sums payable under any other Act out of money so provided.*

## 10 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales. 40

- (2) The provisions of this Act, with the exception of section 3, come into force on the day on which this Act is passed.
- (3) Section 3 comes into force in accordance with the provisions of section 6.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the School Holidays (Meals and Activities) Act 2018.

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To require local authorities to facilitate the delivery of programmes that provide free meals and activities for children during school holidays; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Frank Field,  
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