

Karen-Jane Brush
Director
Institute of Outdoor Learning

2nd November 2006

Dear Karen-Jane

Standards for the Provision of Overseas Expeditions for Young Persons Consultation

I am writing to you as the Chair of a working group of commercial companies and EPA (Expedition Providers Association) called together by the DfES as part of the proposals that each sector of the Outdoor Industry should have a 'Badge' that would inform potential clients a minimum set of standards for expeditions, to which clients can refer when selecting a Provider.

The Working Group consists of members of the Expedition Providers Association (Alistair Cole Adventure Lifesigns, Mike Rosser Adventureworks, Matt Wells Outlook Expeditions, Mark Brazier Wilderness Expertise), Mike Trueman World Challenge and a Liz Gray representing other organisations from EPA.

The group has met on six occasions since November 2006 and has now produced the enclosed draft for consultation. An electronic copy of this document can be obtained from **Mike Rosser by e-mail** mike@jagged-globe.co.uk All comments should be returned to Mike by **Monday 22 January 2007**.

We are particularly interested to know if these standards are robust enough to become a measure of a company's competence to deliver safe and challenging expeditions in a way that would help clients make informed choices.

The working group and other EPA members hope to sign up to these Standards as a common code of working practice early in 2007. The group will then work towards a scheme of accreditation by the end of 2007. This scheme would involve an inspection process by a competent body not directly involved with any of the scheme participants.

If you have any questions we would be happy to answer them. I look forward to your responses.

Yours sincerely

Mike A Rosser
Working Group Chair