

# Proposed Wheelchairs (Short-term access) (Scotland) Bill

## Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to ensure the provision of wheelchairs to anyone assessed as needing one on a short-term, as well as on a long-term, basis. The consultation runs from 8 April 2019 to 30 June 2019. All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document. Questions marked with an asterisk (\*) require an answer. All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response. Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded. Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here: [Consultation document Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used

## About you

Please choose whether you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Note: If you choose "individual" and consent to have the response published, it will appear under your own name. If you choose "on behalf of an organisation" and consent to have the response published, it will be published under the organisation's name.

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:**

I'm an Occupational Therapist working in a rehab setting

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. (Note: the name will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response).

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

## Aim and Approach

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of establishing a duty to provide a wheelchair to anyone who has been assessed as having a short-term need for one (defined as less than 6 months)?

Partially opposed

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I feel we provide already vast amounts of equipment to patients every year at considerable cost. If I feel a patient will benefit from a wheelchair I am happy to refer them to wheelchair services and also direct people to the Red Cross if I feel it is more appropriate for short term need. Patients with injuries, strokes and neurological conditions (short and long term) are provided with an appropriate wheelchair as part of their care. Another consideration is that if people are given a wheelchair for indoor use at home, then their home has to be able to accommodate that chair. I have had patients with fractures who bed block for weeks because their home is too small to accommodate it. I'm speaking from many years experience when I say that most homes in Scotland are not suitable for using a wheelchair, even an attendant one. At some point we have to say no we can't provide that and ensure there is a low cost, accessible option for borrowing certain pieces of equipment. The health and safety rules for maintaining wheelchairs are very stringent and consequently very costly. If wheelchair services have hundreds more to maintain then these costs will rise considerably.

Q2. What is your view on setting a target for providing a wheelchair to a person who (a) has been assessed as having a short-term need for one and (b) is otherwise ready to use it?

No target in the legislation

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view of where the Bill should place the duty to provide short-term access to wheelchairs to people assessed as needing them?

Other (please specify)

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

I don't believe there should be a duty

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of how further provision about wheelchair access (e.g. assessment criteria and eligibility) should be made?

It should be left to NHS Boards or Integrated Authorities (as the case may be) to develop criteria for themselves

Q5. Which of the following best expresses your view of requiring Scottish Ministers to report back to the Parliament on the operation of the legislation?

Unsure

## Financial Implications

Q6. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have?

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
<b>Government and the public sector (including the NHS, local authorities)</b>	X					
<b>Businesses (including makers and suppliers of wheelchairs)</b>						X
<b>The third sector (including charities and voluntary bodies supporting those with mobility issues)</b>					X	
<b>Individuals (including people with mobility issues and their relatives)</b>						X

## Equalities

Q7. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, maternity and pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Slightly positive

Q8. In what ways could any negative impact of the Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

Don't make provision a statutory duty

## Sustainability

Q9. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably, i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

No

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

It puts a further burden on service provision and raises patient expectations yet again. This is not sustainable and makes life difficult when the money has to be cut. The people delivering these services every day are the ones that have to say no. Patients get angry and feel you are withholding something they are entitled to.

## General

Q10. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

Equipment provision is already very generous in Tayside. I don't see the necessity of increasing it and as I said before most homes won't accommodate a wheelchair. They can also put undue strain on the person expected to push an attendant chair or lift it in and out of the boot of the car etc.