

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.

on behalf of an organisation

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".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).

Health and Social Care North Lanarkshire main aim is the provision of safe, person centred, effective supports. People of North Lanarkshire will achieve their full potential through: Living safe, healthy and

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

independent lives in their communities and receiving the information, support and care they need, efficiently and effectively, at the right time and in the right place. Working alongside, Westmarc, the west of Scotland's wheelchair service individuals living in North Lanarkshire are referred for an assessment for permanent wheelchair provision. When individuals require short term loan of wheelchairs they are signposted to local third sector organisations or private organisations to self purchase or rent. In some occasions an individual's short term needs within their home can be met using a variety of equipment which can be loaned from our integrated equipment and adaptation service, an example of which would be a portable shower commode chair being provided to someone who is at the end of their life and needing to be transferred into their bathroom when they can no longer walk.

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)?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There are many factors which affect our ability to fully support the proposal. *Capacity within current services both direct and indirect impacts. * Need more descriptors regarding what the proposal had in mind for short term provision e.g. recovery after an accident. This would allow statutory bodies to be clearer regarding local solutions. * Funding *The governance and infrastructure around the wheelchair provision. *Maintenance, cleaning, servicing, storage, repairs, uplifts, recycling, health and safety. *There are assessment implications and a need for increased skill development e.g. postural seating and pressure relief management. * There would be increased demand for environmental assessments ensuring that people's homes can accommodate the wheelchair, that the access to the property is suitable for the wheelchair. * There would be increased demand for carer's assessments as wheelchairs can be quite heavy and often will need to be pushed and or lifted in and out of vehicles. *The development of processes to ensure consistency and streamlined services to link with current permanent wheelchair provision and current third sector involvement in wheelchair provision. * The concept of being assessed for a wheelchair is unnecessary. People who need a wheelchair for a short period should be supported to be self-managing and directed to use schemes which are already in existence in North Lanarkshire Communities such as the Red Cross and shop mobility.

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?

Another target (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response

A target of within a working week should be proposed. There have not been any identified gaps in our current service delivery models. We currently meet the needs of service users in our communities who have short term needs ;using third sector agencies and alternative types of equipment.

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?

Duty placed on NHS Boards

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Currently, WestMARC provides a tertiary wheelchair service to the Health Boards within the west region of Scotland. It would be recommended that WestMARC would work in partnership with a third sector organisation such as the Red Cross who currently have experience providing short term loan of equipment including wheelchairs. However, the concept of being assessed for a wheelchair for short term loan may prove to be unnecessary. People who need a wheelchair for a short period are currently supported to be self-managing and directed to use schemes which are already in existence in North Lanarkshire Communities such as the Red Cross and shop mobility.

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?

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Our preference would be that there is no formal assessment which is the current position. Ministers being able to offer guidance to the statutory body to apply consistency across Scotland would be very beneficial. However, each local area should hold responsibility to deliver on the proposal and therefore hold the responsibility to develop localised criteria. It is envisaged that this would be commissioned out to third sector organisations so as it deliberately doesn't sit within assessment and planning within the local authority to encourage and promote self-management and individual recovery. The provision of more descriptors regarding what the proposal had in mind for short term loan e.g. recovery after an accident. This would allow statutory bodies to be clearer regarding local solutions. It is difficult to give detailed responses without this clarity.

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?

Duty to report every three years

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There are a lot of competing priorities and this may not be the most urgent.

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
Government and the public sector (including the NHS, local authorities)	X					
Businesses (including makers and suppliers of wheelchairs)				X		
The third sector (including charities and voluntary bodies supporting those with mobility issues)			X			
Individuals (including people with mobility issues and their relatives)				X		

Please explain the reasons for your response.

*The government and public sector could potentially have a huge increase in direct costs through the purchase, maintenance, repair, cleaning, storage, collection and admin and logistical supports. This could potentially have increased costs for benefits, home care provision as people have increased risks of mobility reducing if the chairs are not removed timeously. *Businesses should generate income *The third sector should be cost neutral or may have some savings if there is a statutory duty imposed on the government/public sectors. *Individuals may potentially save money as they will not have to rent or purchase equipment.

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?

Negative

Please explain the reasons for your response.

This could potentially impact on individuals who have long term disabilities depending on the infrastructure and resourcing of this proposal. If this is to be done within existing resources our ability to provide both assessments and resources to individuals with long term conditions could be negatively affected. There may be increased delays for assessments as resources need to be redirected to rapid assessments for individuals requiring environmental/ carer's assessments.

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

There would need to be resource allocated to the bodies that are having to provide an increased level of assessment and or support around the provision to reduce impact on the services both directly and indirectly impacted.

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

The concept of being assessed for a wheelchair is unnecessary. People who need a wheelchair for a short period should be supported to be self-managing and directed to use schemes which are already in existence in North Lanarkshire Communities such as the Red Cross and shop mobility. This would result in no impact to already stretched resources.

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.

This proposal would have widespread impact on multifaceted areas of service delivery and provision. It has potential indirect negative impact on someone's ability to recover following illness or injury through the prescription of potentially necessary equipment.

General

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

Clarity needs to be provided about any evidence supporting the need for this proposal nationally.
There requires to be clarity regarding funding for this proposal.
Infrastructure will require to be developed to support.
As individuals are being empowered to be self-managing, this could be a potential shift to encouraging people to come into service for assessments.