

# 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 am an architect and landscape architect. I lecture on design for people with dementia and am also secretary to the Edinburgh Access Panel. In this instance I am responding as an individual, having recently had the need for a wheelchair following surgery on my ankle.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

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).

Annette Pollock

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)?

Fully supportive

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

Having had the experience of having very limited mobility for 3 months, I recognise how important it is to be able to go outdoors and to get to appointments, shops etc. A wheelchair is vital.

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?

Target of 48 hours (where practicable)

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

It is probably acceptable to wait a couple of days to get a wheelchair (depending on exact circumstances) - but ideally it would be something to be agreed with the individual, and could be longer or shorter after discussion.

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?

Unsure

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

I am unsure about this. NHS Boards are pretty overstretched and delegation to an integrated authority

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?

might work - however the more bureaucracy, often the more delay. Additional funding will be required as it is pretty hard to find a wheelchair when in hospital, let alone borrow one!

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?

Ministers should have power to make regulations, give directions, and guidance

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

I think the regulations, directions, guidance need to be clear and unarguable. It must work for the whole of Scotland and my fear is that if left to individual health boards, wheelchair access might be very variable.

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 two years

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

Seems a reasonable timeframe to get a good idea of how well it is working and whether changes are needed.

## 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	

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

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

My thoughts are: Government/public sector funding essential; businesses will simply be supplying more wheelchairs (good for business); third sector is an unknown; individuals a cost saving in that they will not need to either buy or hire a wheelchair.

## 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?

Positive

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

A positive in allowing people who are temporarily disabled to get out and about. Savings in taxi fares. Improvement in mental health.

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

I can't see any negative impacts

## 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?

Yes

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

I would hope that it could. May be that a small loan fee is payable to take account of wear and tear? This might not apply to people on benefit. The economics need to be carefully considered and the loans perhaps monitored too.

## General

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

I was lucky that someone could lend me a wheelchair when I needed one. Otherwise it would have been very difficult to get to outpatient appointments. Otherwise I would have looked to hire one, but this was

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

not easy to find out about and I was not given any advice on this. So to get one after surgery on loan would be logical. However I would worry about damage and cost and this needs factored in.