

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).

Comments requested of all staff and received from many

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).

Occupational Therapy Dept , Astley Ainslie Hospital , Edinburgh - NHS Lothian

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.

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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.

We have a mix of staff views - but there are lots of things to be considered in this proposal and so lacks clarity

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 72 hours (where practicable)

Please explain the reasons for your response

Main issue is who will assess to ensure the needs have rehabilitative value ?

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.

The feasibility of this proposal is not sufficiently outlined , the costs will be significant to already over stretched services -

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.

Should remain with charity & /or 3rd sector - on a donation status - so is affordable

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

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Unsure we need this legislation

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.

Charitable donations can currently secure a loan of a chair from Red Cross .

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.

They may have unintended consequences for those requiring long term wheelchair use as waits may be longer for assessments and reduce costs may mean chairs not sufficiently meeting their needs .

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

Increased understanding of range and diversity of mobility needs e.g short term sprained ankle versus childhood cerebral palsy , would need new funding to ensure no impact on current services

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 creates many issues of concern - see comments below

General

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

General

Concerns are

1. Who is doing the assessments – level of competency – needs to be AHP
2. Some may benefit from increased mobility rather than Wheelchair use
3. Can create a dependency on a wheelchair which is unhelpful in rehabilitation and recovery
4. If family get a wheelchair rather than have the underlying reason for mobility reductions assessed then maintaining mobility and independence may be lost.
5. All wheelchairs and cushions should be assessed for and fitted for plus then pt and family should get education re the safe use of the chair, folding up and lifting into cars etc
6. Wheelchair provision can cause issues in the home as bathrooms etc may not be accessible – due to door widths.
7. How will the wheelchairs be returned and cleaned – how to keep footplates from getting lost , who does puncture repairs
8. If the person is not safe to use a wheelchair in public they can cause injury to others
9. Wheelchairs - given to family or friends can cause health issues re posture and pressure if not correctly prescribed
10. Currently other equipment loaned often never gets returned and ends in charity shops !
11. Where is the funding coming from for this as the WC service is already underfunded and so can lead to delays in provision
12. What is the threshold /criteria – e.g from sprained ankles to fractures

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

Advantages

1. If can get a short term loan allows outings for less able family members if have others able to push
- 2.