

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

Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)

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).

Recycle Mobility Centre CIC is a social enterprise that deals in the sale of reused/reconditioned mobility equipment to those who can least afford to buy new. We also offer an affordable repair and maintenance

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

service, and volunteer training in mechanical/electrical engineering in assistive technology. We have been based in West Dunbartonshire since 2014, trading for 5 years. The directors of the company have read over the proposed bill and have formed a consensus on agreed points. Where there is any differ in opinion these have been added.

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).

Recycle Mobility Centre

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.

Contact Elaine Williamson or Stephen Kane at Recycle Mobility Centre 470 Dumbarton Road Dalmuir West Dunbartonshire G81 4DN. Landline: 0141 261 3441 or mobile: 07592581425 email: ewilliamson2010@hotmail.co.uk

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 supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

We have been trading for over 5 years during that time we have encountered people who only require manual wheelchairs on a short term basis. We sell all our wheelchairs at a reduced rate starting at £60 depending on make and model. Light weight wheelchairs seem to be the most desirable and the most expensive. All has been serviced and gone through a quality assurance test. If the customer wants to return the wheelchair we buy it back at a reduced rate taking into consideration the make, model and condition of the wheelchair on return. If you provide this free service it would have a small effect on our business but we understand that some people cannot afford to buy wheelchairs but some people can and would prefer to do so, especially if it is a light weight one.

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)

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?

Please explain the reasons for your response

People would need to be assessed taking into consideration height, weight, access to property, demonstrations on how they work. Any role out across Scotland would have to come from a central point, with admin details collected and logged these element discussed can be time consuming and i imagine there would be logistical problems meeting demand therefore 72 hours would be a realistic time frame to meet this demand.

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 Integrated Authorities (Health and Social Care Partnerships)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

NHS assessment take too long, extra burden on NHS staff cleaning, repairing, maintaining and delivering equipment.

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.

It was felt that ministers should have power and offer guidance to ensure that there is harmonization and entitlement with the scheme rather than different authorities and agencies offering different interpretations.

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 year

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Initially report first year to give people insight into how the operation are working then after that every three years

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.

This is quite an ambiguous question as to determine cost what this means. However, we have determined this to mean: Government costs will increase even if offset with costs of impact with days off and more Dr Visits. Emotional well being (dont Know the cost or how to measure this. Business costs would increase as they will have to buy stock and sell stock therefore a significant increase in costs The third sector will have a reduction in costs as they will not longer sell as many as they did before as they will now be free Individuals will have a reduction in costs if it is free

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

No sure about this question other than discrimination of disabled people is prevalent across society regardless of age, race, gender

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

i dont know as this is a bigger question than i can answer

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Economically it will benefit those who cannot afford to buy the equipment but will have an effect on Tax payers, socially will offer people access to the local community family, friends and reduce isolation and increase independence. Environmentally it will produce more wheelchairs that will end up in landfill.

General

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

We are already in talks with Zero Waste Scotland and NHS working towards a possible returns shop where people drop off NHS equipment to be redirected back into system thus reducing waste to landfill. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this proposed Bill and offer any assistance in its future development.