

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".)

Member of the public

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 currently borrowing a wheelchair from the red cross for 3 months

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).

Tamara Hicks

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.

This essential piece of equipment has given me freedom and independence, and a respite from crutches when I need it. Recieving it quickly enabled me to continue getting to work when I injured my shoulder and couldn't use crutches at all.

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 24 hours (where practicable)

Please explain the reasons for your response

This same day response time I got from my local red cross is what I needed to continue getting into work without contributing to an already strained sickness record.

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.

Any method that would be able to provide it fastest and with appropriate training

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?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I'm happy as long as there is a consistent fair approach that allows for unique cases to be considered.

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.

I don't know what this entails. Perhaps if this is a requirement then yearly for first 3 years then every 5 years thereafter assuming success, yearly with adaptations if not.

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		

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.

I suffer from poor mental health and struggle with admin. I was relieved to be able to pick up the chair I needed at short notice with minimal paperwork. It gave me a great deal of mental and physical relief when I was in a lot of pain getting around.

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

Keeping paperwork to the minimum, having the ability to deal with cases quickly. Having chairs you can wheel for yourself available.

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.

The pros outweigh the cons as the reduction in down time for people who need this will allow them to continue working, attending appointments and not getting mentally ill as a result of poor provision.

General

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

I'm delighted to be reading this at a time when it is directly affecting me and will likely do so again in the future, again for short periods of time. A quick and temporary accompanying blue badge would also be beneficial as I don't have one yet which is pretty awkward, and I will probably not need it by the time it arrives.