

# 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:**

My wife recently had a hip replacement

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

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)?

Fully supportive

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

While many places such as shopping malls and supermarkets do provide wheelchairs they either have to be booked which can reduce peoples freedom of movement or it is the luck of the draw whether one is available. Additionally the quality of freely provided wheelchairs can be somewhat low. Not having a wheelchair available, even for a short period, can affect peoples quality of living. My wife recently had a hip replacement and while she could walk with crutches getting from one end to the other and back again of a larger shopping mall would have been far beyond her in the early stages. Most malls supplied wheelchairs either with or without booking but some scandalously charged for them at £5 a time. A standard wheelchair not a motorised buggy. Without a wheelchair being available we would have been even more restricted where we could go while she was in the early stages of healing and it did restrict us from certain places.

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**

I would say 3 days is sufficient AFTER assessment but there should be some thought given to how long it will be before an assessment is given. Presumably in most cases this would be added into pre-operation occupational health type assessment for say bed height, requirement for crutches etc. etc.

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

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?

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

I believe the duty should lie with the NHS but they should be able to delegate the provision (but not the responsibility) as they see fit. i.e. in certain areas it would no doubt make more sense for some sort of voucher to be made available so that a wheelchair can be hired rather than clog up the NHS boards with storing, distributing and maintaining vast numbers of wheelchairs. Presumably with the buying power that the NHS could bring they would be able to negotiate very good deals on the hire.

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 national standards need to be set so that a post-code lottery does not develop. However ministers should be required to seek input from all the health boards, plus 3rd sector before making decisions about regulation etc.

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?

Other (please specify)

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

I would suggest every year for the first 2 years then change to bi-annually

## 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
<b>Government and the public sector (including the NHS, local authorities)</b>		X				
<b>Businesses (including makers and suppliers of wheelchairs)</b>			X			
<b>The third sector (including charities and voluntary bodies supporting those with mobility issues)</b>				X		

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

<b>Individuals (including people with mobility issues and their relatives)</b>				X		
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**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

It would seem as though the cost would be shouldered by the NHS thus leaving charities to move their resources to other needy areas. It will also reduce costs to those who do not have a local charity that can supply a temporary 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.**

Will obviously help the temporarily disabled regardless of any other criteria

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

*No Response*

## 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.**

If new money is not provided to the NHS by the Scottish Government to support this it will obviously mean a shift of resources to other areas which might be detrimental

## General

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

This duty should not be put onto the NHS without extra resourcing (which should be ring fenced for this project).

I would also suggest most emphatically that if someone is in receipt of a wheelchair that they be given some sort of temporary blue parking badge so that they can use disabled spaces.

A wheelchair is all very well but if your movement getting in and out of a car is restricted then a standard parking space can prove very problematical.