

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 manage a range of services within a Community setting for adults with disability and older people and have 30 years experience in delivering social care,

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

If you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published, please give a reason (Note: your reason will not be published):

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.

Having been involved in delivering an intermediate care service as well as day service supports to older people discharging from hospital, I appreciate the benefits that would come for many if they had access to a wheelchair for a period of time.

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

The sooner the better to aid reablement potential and the fullest recovery

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?

Other (please specify)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

HSCPs and the IJBs which lead them, don't tend to be at the face of acute discharge. Then again, NHS

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?

Boards do not have the community facing infrastructure to easily manage such a scheme. However it is decided, very clear lines of funding and responsibility will be necessary.

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.

This would ensure equity across Scotland and eliminate the "post code lottery" issues which exist in many areas of Health and Social Care.

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.

Initial reporting annually would allow for close scrutiny of a new duty. After a couple of years and depending how things are progressing, less regular reporting would seem reasonable.

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.

Using a real example to explain: 87 years old is discharged from acute care following #femur surgery. Individual also has other significant health conditions (heart failure, stage 4 kidney disease, cataracts). Still very frail on discharge with full home care package for 6 weeks reablement and in those 6 weeks has little opportunity to re-familiarise themselves with the outside world and increase their confidence because they don't have access to a wheelchair initially. In addition, they have had to miss 2 follow up appointments at hospital, one for cataract check and one for heart check because they were not mobile enough to walk to a vehicle to be taken for their appointments. However, they are considered "too able" by ambulance transport service for this to be provided. Hopefully this illustrates my thoughts about where costs and savings would be realised if the future were considered and not merely the immediate. Additionally, the outcomes for such a person both in the long and shorter term are potentially poor and so the savings if we remain focussed on better outcomes for individuals in the longer term could be significantly greater.

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

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

In my opinion, there would not be a negative impact

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

General

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

No Response