

# 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)

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).

West Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership

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.**

West Dunbartonshire HSCP fully support the Bill as short term wheelchair when needed would support rehabilitation and help to prevent social isolation and loneliness. The Equipu Partnership has been providing short term wheelchair loan since 2017 in which West Dunbartonshire HSCP is a partner.

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?

No target in the legislation

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

We need to be consistent, at the moment there is no target for any other equipment.

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, but with a requirement to delegate it to Integrated Authorities (Health & Social Care Partnerships)

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

Duty is already placed with NHS Boards to provide permanent wheelchairs, but since the Public Bodies (Scotland) Act 2014 provides legislation to delegate to the Integrated Authorities.

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?

It should be left to NHS Boards or Integrated Authorities (as the case may be) to develop criteria for themselves

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

To be consistent with other service arrangements.

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 three years

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

Three years is a reasonable time for NHS Boards to report to Scottish Ministers.

## 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.**

The cost for short term wheelchair provision would be more than balanced from users, needing other services that contributes to their health and well - being.

## 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.**

The Bill would have a positive impact on equality as it would not discriminate permanent disabled people and people who are disabled for a short term.

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

Don't over complicate the criteria to access short term wheelchair loan.

## 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.**

Although there will be an initial cost to NHS Boards to purchase and maintain more wheelchairs, this could turn into a positive purchase if it prevents the number of hospital re - admissions and frequent use of services.

## General

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

West Dunbartonshire HSCP believe the Bill will have a positive impact on people who'll need the service as long as the Bill does not put barriers in place or the Guidance does not become complicated.