

YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL

Note: All answers to the questions in this section may be published (unless your response is “not for publication”).

Aim and approach

1. 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	
Partially supportive	
Neutral (neither support or oppose)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Partially opposed	
Fully opposed	
Unsure	

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Supportive of ensuring that people whose lives could be made easier, are not disadvantaged by lack of access; however, a number of practical challenges:

- Assessing short term need – likely to be difficult to predict accurately whether short or long-term needs
- Anyone requiring specialist seating (even short-term) will require specialist seating assessment and provision; currently only available to those with permanent wheelchair needs
- Current lack of suitable stock to cover a range of ages/ sizes/ requirements (attendant- versus self-propelled wheelchairs) available in reasonable timescales
- Current lack of adequate resource to cover the necessary arrangements: assessment capacity to supply wheelchairs appropriately, storage space for the wide range and number of chairs which will need to be stocked, resource for maintenance and repairs (parts and staff), and staffing resource and systems to monitor stock including arranging return/ collections.

2. 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)	
Target of 48 hours (where practicable)	
Target of 72 hours (where practicable)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Another target (please specify)	

No target in the legislation	
Unsure	

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Reasonable timescale, in line with a range of other priority community equipment provisions – unlikely to be considered an “urgent” piece of equipment, as would not contribute directly to either prevention of admission, or be deemed essential for discharge from hospital

3. 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	
Duty placed on NHS Boards, but with a requirement to delegate it to Integrated Authorities (Health & Social Care Partnerships)	
Duty placed on Integrated Authorities (Health & Social Care Partnerships)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	
Unsure	

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Probably is in keeping with a range of other community equipment items, already supplied through HSCPs
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4. 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.	
It should be left to NHS Boards or Integrated Authorities (as the case may be) to develop the criteria for themselves.	
Other (please specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unsure	

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Government should develop a framework alongside any legal requirements, in order to provide guidance; local HSCPs or NHS Boards should develop specific criteria to meet local needs alongside operational procedures

5. Which of the following best expresses your view of requiring Scottish Ministers to report back to the Scottish Parliament on the operation of the legislation?

Duty to report every year	
Duty to report every two years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Duty to report every three years	
Duty to report every five years	
Unsure	
Other (please specify)	

Please explain the reasons for your response:

Financial implications

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

(a) Government and the public sector (including the NHS, local authorities)

Significant increase in cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Some increase in cost	
Broadly cost-neutral	
Some reduction in cost	
Significant reduction in cost	
Unsure	

(b) Businesses (including makers and suppliers of wheelchairs)

Significant increase in cost	
Some increase in cost	
Broadly cost-neutral	
Some reduction in cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Significant reduction in cost	
Unsure	

(c) The third sector (including charities and voluntary bodies supporting those with mobility issues)

Significant increase in cost	
Some increase in cost	
Broadly cost-neutral	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Some reduction in cost	
Significant reduction in cost	
Unsure	

(d) Individuals (including people with mobility issues and their relatives)

Significant increase in cost	
Some increase in cost	
Broadly cost-neutral	
Some reduction in cost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Significant reduction in cost	
Unsure	

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Significant financial cost to NHS or HSCP – in East Ayrshire this would be estimated to affect up to an additional 1600 people per annum.

Wheelchair manufacturers will benefit from additional demand which will drive down per unit costs. No cost impact to third sector, but some reduction for individuals, who will no longer need to pay for arranging any wheelchairs, as they may do at present.

Equalities

7. 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 and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Positive	
Slightly positive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Neutral (neither positive nor negative)	
Slightly negative	
Negative	
Unsure	

Please explain the reasons for your response.

For those with disabilities, this is likely to be broadly positive, subject to availability of appropriate wheelchairs for all ages and conditions, which as above may be practically challenging to deliver.

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

Funding from Scottish Government for sufficient wheelchair stock to be purchased, and for replacement parts for servicing and repairs. Additional funding for staffing to maintain and repair wheelchairs, and monitor and manage stock levels and returns.

Alternatively, a national provider could be identified (e.g. British Red Cross) who was contracted to deliver this requirement.

Sustainability

9. 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	
No	
Unsure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Unclear what the overall financial benefits or costs will be – at present, it is not known if any financial impact is felt indirectly through lack of provision, and whether the lack of consistent provision leads to other costs.

General

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

Whilst we recognise the importance of providing people with the right equipment to be able to maximise independence and maintain quality of life, we have concerns regarding the specific duty being placed on NHS boards or HSCPs, due to practical considerations:

- Large number of wheelchairs required, to meet a wide range of ages and needs – this would challenge any ability to meet timescales for provision, subject to manufacturer availability
- Significant cost impact (estimated 1600 would require this in East Ayrshire per annum)
- Difficulties in providing accurate assessment of short term vs long term requirements for wheelchairs
- Additional resource requirement for assessment, storage, maintenance, monitoring stock levels