

Proposed Free Personal Care (Persons under 65) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland

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.

Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposal to remove the age-limit that currently restricts the right to free personal care to those aged 65 or over?

Fully Supportive

Q2. What do you think would be the main advantages, if any, of the proposal?

We believe the main advantages of the Bill are that access to free personal care will be based on need, not based on age. Access to free personal care also has the advantage of providing some financial relief for individuals and their families and carers. Another potential advantage is helping more carers remain in work for longer, while giving the cared-for person personal space and dignity. This has the potential to have a positive effect on mental wellbeing for both the cared-for person and the carer.

Q3. What do you think would be the main disadvantages, if any, of the proposal?

No Response

Page 10: Financial implications

Q4. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have for each of the following?

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
Scottish Government and local authorities	X					
Businesses (including those providing care services)			X			
Individuals (including those receiving care and their families)					X	

Please explain the reasons for your response

We expect there to be a financial impact for Scottish Government and local authorities through paying for additional personal care for those found eligible. For businesses, including those providing care services, there is the potential for additional demands on services as a result of this Bill which may require hiring of additional staff. However, we would expect any increase in costs relating to this to be funded through local authority and Scottish Government levers. The Scottish Government feasibility study has suggested extending Free Personal Care is an option which could have important benefits for many of those currently charged for these services. For individuals, and their families, who currently cannot access free personal care because of their age we would expect there to be a significant reduction in cost if this Bill is implemented. We would also expect there to be a financial improvement for unpaid carers who may be able to remain in work for longer whilst providing care.

Q5. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

We look forward to the results of the modelling undertaken by the Scottish Government on the possible costs of providing additional services in response to unmet need.

Page 12: Equalities

Q6. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on the following protected groups (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response

This Bill, if implemented, will have a positive impact on equality as current provisions do not allow equal access to free personal care for persons of all ages.

Q7. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on any of these protected groups be minimised or avoided?

No Response

Page 14: Sustainability of the proposal

Q8. 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

Page 15: General

Q9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

We are pleased to see the Programme for Government includes the extension of free personal care to all those under 65 who need it. We believe the provision of free personal care should be based on need, not age. Currently, those who are diagnosed, for example with early onset dementia, struggle to access any support until they reach the age of 65. Free personal care for under 65s would undoubtedly also help more carers remain in work for longer while giving the cared-for person space and dignity, with a positive effect on mental wellbeing for both the carer and cared-for person.