

# Proposed Bill to abolish charges for non-residential social care

## Page 2: About you

Please provide your name and other contact details. Please provide at least one means of contacting you (address, e-mail or telephone) - e-mail is our preferred option. (NB: you will be given the option shortly to specify whether it is your name or your organisation's name that is to be used, and you may also request anonymity or confidentiality for your response.)

**Your name (mandatory)** John Buckley

**Name of your organisation (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)** -

**Your Job Title (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)** -

**Contact details (please provide at least one of: email, telephone number, postal address) (mandatory)** [REDACTED]

Please indicate below whether you are content for your response to be attributed to you by name (either your name or that of your organisation)

I am content for my response to be attributed to me (as an individual)

## Page 4: Your comments on the proposal

Q1: Do you support the principle that non-residential social care services should be available free at the point of delivery to those who have been assessed by a relevant professional as requiring them (as is the case within health care)?

Yes

**Please explain your answer**

Care charging can financially disadvantage some disabled people and could push them towards poverty. I also believe that some human rights are being affected in charging for care.

Q2. Do you agree that legislation is a necessary and appropriate means of addressing the issues identified?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Legislation is needed as local authorities have not been able to come to any agreement to end care charging and along with COSLA have been trying to make the charging system fairer for many years, yet they have no plans to even talk about ending the charges. Recent legislation on waiving of charges for carers has set a precedent and as far as I'm aware, the Scottish Government only have the power to regulate care charges, not end them, so a new law would benefit everyone.

Q3. The current system has resulted in varying charges in different areas for the same level and quality of service. Do you agree that there should be consistency across Scotland?

Yes

**What do you think the advantages and disadvantages would be?**

It would create a level playing field across Scotland for care support and people could choose where to live without worrying about charges and would end the financial discrimination of disabled people, thus, meaning they are less likely to be in poverty.

Q4. Should all social care related services be free at the point of delivery?

Yes

**If you answered Yes, please explain your reasons. If you answered No, please explain which services should be excluded, and why. (Please refer to the services set out on page 7 of the consultation document).**

Access to all Social care services is through an assessment of need and an eligibility criteria which assesses the risk of the current position. The decision on which services should be provided are based on a decision about what will help a person maintain themselves in the community. Having any charge on one of a range of services risks a person opting out of that aspect of support and then undermining the whole care package.

Q5. What are the likely financial implications (if any) of the proposed Bill to you or your organisation? What (if any) other significant financial implications are likely to arise?

Disabled people will be able to meet any additional expenditure associated with their disability, without waiting on permission from their local authority, they would also be able to make choices on how to spend any income, without interference from their local authority and they might be able to save some money for whatever may crop up in the future.

Local authorities should save on administration costs. Health boards could save on unplanned admissions. Scottish Government would have to fund social care, in Scotland, properly.

Q6. What do you think the implications of the proposed Bill are for equality? If it is likely to have a substantial negative implication, how might this be minimised or avoided?

Positive

**Please explain your answer. If you answered Negative, please suggest any ways this impact could be minimised or avoided.**

Disabled people should be able to access services that are necessary for them to live a good life, without having to worry about any financial consequences and they should be able to have the same opportunity to live in a community, as anyone without disabilities.

Q7. Are there any other comments you would wish to make that are relevant to this proposal?

If this proposal becomes law, it will be a sense of relief for the many disabled people who are only just managing to keep their heads above water, it would take the pressure of them and allow them to have a better quality of whatever life they have and lead. Nobody knows what it is like to have to live your life not knowing if you have the will to carry on, but this just might help.