

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 Dalrymple

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

[REDACTED]

Your Job Title (if applicable - otherwise leave blank)

[REDACTED]

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

It is clearly unjust that a section of society (already containing a disproportionate number of the poorest people in society) should be subject to an additional tax on its income; and cruel that it should be levied specifically because its members are defined as being in need.

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

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Because the levying of this additional tax must be made illegal.

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?

People relying on the social care system do not remain forever in one place. As citizens of Scotland they should be able to expect that in whichever part of the nation they live their contract with the state for the services they require should be consistent and indetical.

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).

Please refer to answers given previousuly. It may be particularly unjust or especially cruel to levy this additional tax on specific elements of social care services that are essential to the wellbeing to of specific individuals (albeit such individuals may represent a very small minority of citizens).

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?

Neighbourhood Networks facilitates local networks of mutual support amongst marginalised, isolated and disadvataged individuals in various communities across Scotland. The financial implications of NOT proceeding with the Bill are that some Councils will perist with plans to levy the tax on the members of our networks. This local tax, intrinsically wrong in and of itself, is also hugely disproportionate to the absolute and total value of the low cost service we provide; it cannot be afforded and should not be paid by the people on whom it is levied. The financial implication for the organisation is that in these Council areas the funding we receive is most likely to be paid net of the charges raised anticipated but not raised through the tax, leaving us deficient in funds.

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.

The Bill if enacted will end this unjust and cruel taxation and thus remove its burden from some of the poorest and disadvataged people in our society. Their ability to use their limited incomes more freely will

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lessen the inequalities they face on a daily basis.

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

While the arguments from principle against the tax apply to all people who rely on the social care system, it seems to be an important matter of emphasis that people who use a service like Neighbourhood Networks that promotes mutual and peer support in local communities and encourages the contribution that people are able to make to their neighbours streets and towns should not be subject to a further erosion of their personal income simply on the basis that they choose to make use of such a service.