

# 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)**

linda saunders

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

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

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**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**

I have worked in the field of social care service provision for 34 years and have seen at first hand both the inequity of service charges and also the impact that service charges have on the willingness of some of society's most vulnerable people to accept services to support them in their own homes.

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**

Left to their own devices we will continue to have a postcode lottery of service charges imposed by Local

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Authorities as a means of balancing the books. We do not ask for the service user to make a payment for the nurse who comes in to change the ulcer badages so why should they pay for the home care worker who comes in to apply the TED stockings and undertake the physical tasks which they are unable to undertake as a result of their physical/medical condition?

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?**

There are no disadvantages to providing equality

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).**

Health services are free and the need for both are so often inter-related. Not accepting social care services because of charges often leads to exasperations of medical conditions as people struggle to cope at home and eventually to higher costs to society as a whole. With the integration of health and social care service provision it is time to look at the wider picture.

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?

Reduced revenue to the local Authority which will inevitable lead to further service cuts and job losses so this MUST be funded.

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.**

Equity of service provision should be at the centre of every person-centred service delivered in Scotland

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

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*No Response*