

Draft Carers (Waiving of Charges for Support) (Scotland) Regulations 2014

Question 1 (a) Is paragraph 9 easy to understand?

No

Question 1 (b)

No

Reasons

We are concerned that the regulations and guidance are not clear in relation to the carer taking a holiday with the cared for person and the contributions that can be made.

Question 2 (a) Examples of support to carers where there will be no charges

Yes

Question 2 (b)

N/A

Question 2 (c)

Yes, complimentary therapies and flexible respite support, i.e. support offered not as a Short Break but provided flexibility over the year as social care support.

Question 3 (a) Driving lessons and taxi fares

No

We think there should be more detail around this as it potentially adds a significant financial burden on the local authority.

Question 4 (a) Short Breaks (respite)

No

4 (b)

We think that paragraph 14 needs to be clarified. We have some concern how this will be assessed and monitored by local authorities. While we support the principle that carers are supported to maintain their social networks by local authorities we have some concerns on financial sustainability if, for example, the local authority is expected in some cases to meet the cost of taxi fares for carers to meet friends. We concur that the local authority should pay for replacement care, which would be chargeable, to the cared for person to enable the carer to attend various social activities if it is an assessed need.

Question 5 (a) Breaks or holidays together

No

Question 5 (b)

We are concerned that this could place unrealistic demands on the local authority to meet the costs of holidays for carers in addition to meeting the cost of carers respite. We think that this should be left to the discretion of the local authority

Question 6 (a) Replacement care

No

Question 6 (b)

We think that if replacement care is provided by the local authority to the cared for person then we should be able to levy a contribution for the cost of that care.

Question 7 Any other additional comments

We agree with the intention to provide additional supports to carers but we have a concern around the financial sustainability of some of these changes. We agree that **direct care** provision to the carer should not be charged but that direct care provision to the cared for person should be liable to a contribution. We think that local authorities should have discretion to decide this for themselves.