

Independent Living Fund Consultation

Easy Read



Consultation



The Scottish Government is holding a **consultation** about the Independent Living Fund (ILF). This means they want people to tell them what they think about what is said in this easy read.



There are questions in the consultation. If you would like to answer the questions you can tell us as much or as little as you want to.



The Scottish Government will look at what everyone says. This will help them decide what to do in the future.

Introduction



The Independent Living Fund (ILF) is money paid to people with disabilities. It helps them live in their own homes and get the care and support they need.



After consultation the UK Minister for Disabled People made the decision to close the ILF on 31st March 2015. Those with an award will continue to be supported by the ILF until then.



The UK Government has said that Scotland will get a share of the money that makes up the ILF.



This consultation is asking how you think this money should be spent.



The Scottish Government want to try and make sure the people who already get an ILF award keep getting this money.



A person would keep getting this money unless their personal circumstances change.

Background



The ILF was set up in 1988. Its aim was to give money to people with disabilities so they could live in the community rather than in residential care.



The ILF is one example of the support that has contributed to disabled people being able to live independent lives.



In December 2010 the ILF was closed to new applicants. This was to make sure that the people who already got money from the ILF could keep their level of funding.



In 2012 the ILF gave over **£55 million** to **3204** people in Scotland.



The closure of the ILF will be disappointing for some people. But it is also a chance to set up a new system that is best for Scotland in the future.

People who currently get ILF



The Scottish Government know how important ILF is to the people who get it.



For some people, getting money from the ILF is the difference between having a job and not having a job.



It can be the difference between being independent and being dependent on others to give care and support.

Case Study

“Without ILF I would have to plan everything in advance, I would get out less and my friendships would break down.”



Abby is 23. She has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. She needs 24 hour support to live independently.

Abby left home when she was 18 and lives on her own. Without ILF funding she would still live with her parents or in residential care.





Her local authority package does not cover sleepovers. Her ILF money gives her another 21 hours of support on top of her care package. The extra support ILF gives Abby means she can live an independent life.

Unfairness in the ILF



People who get money from the ILF are clear about the difference the fund has made to their lives.



Since the ILF closed to new applicants some people do not have access to the type of support it offers. They might not be living their lives as independently as they would like to.

Case Study



Catherine has a visual impairment and severe learning disabilities. She does not get ILF because it is closed to new applicants.



Colin is partially sighted and has learning difficulties. He gets support from his local authority and gets money from the ILF.



There is little difference between Colin and Catherine's day to day care needs. The main difference between them is that Colin gets ILF and Catherine does not.

Question 1



What parts of the current Independent Living Fund worked well?



What parts did not work well?



Question 2

When people no longer receive ILF, how should the money then be spent?

Should it be spent in the same way?

Finance and the future



The UK Government has decided that the ILF cannot carry on in its current form.

The Scottish Government think that a “Scottish ILF” would not work either. This is because there is not enough money to meet demand.



The Scottish Government is working with its partners to make sure any new fund is **sustainable**. This means there needs to be the money and resources to carry on the fund in the future



For any new awards it would not be possible to always make it a payment for life.



Thought needs to be given to what group of people a new fund would target. The Scottish Government would like to use this limited fund in a way that has the best results on individual lives.



The Scottish Government is open to all ideas for the use of a new fund. They will think about all of the ideas put forward and pick the one that is the most sustainable.



One idea is that the new fund could be used to overcome short term challenges in a person's life.



For example, a person gets support from a day centre that is closing. This person wants to be more independent and do more things. They are at risk of losing the friends they have made when the day centre closes.



The fund could be used in the short term to support them in keeping these friends and getting out and about more.



Question 3

If ILF is not going to continue, how would you like to see the money used?



Question 4

Can you think of any ways to help increase the money that there is to give disabled people support?

Case Study

Mrs Jones is 74 and cares for her daughter Frances.

Frances has learning and physical disabilities. Mrs Jones gives most of the support her daughter gets.

Frances attends a day centre 3 days a week. She needs support from her mother to take part in any other activities.

Mrs Jones has a lot of health problems and is finding her caring role difficult.

She worries that Frances will never have the chance to live independently as the ILF is now closed.





Question 5

How can we use the resources available to help people live more independent lives?

What is the most important thing that we need to do to help people live more independent lives?

How a new fund may look



It is not possible for ILF to continue in Scotland.

We have some ideas about what we would like to do in the future.

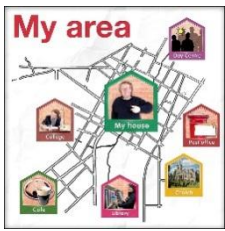
We have called these ideas 'Models for delivery of a new fund'.



We would like to know your views about the new models that we have come up with.

Your views will help us to decide the best option for a new fund.

1 Local authorities



Local authorities will be responsible for providing social services to people who are in their area.

Local authorities will give out the fund locally.

This option is what will be happening in England.

Advantages of this model



- People will get a service that is more equal.
- Applying for the fund will be easier.
- There are people who work for local authorities that have the right skills to help people get the funding they need.

Disadvantages of this model



- The amount given to people in each local authority area may be different.
- People will receive a service which is more equal. But this means that people who already receive a support package might have their local authority service cut. This is so that everyone receives an equal service.
- It might make it more difficult for people to make changes to their lives. It might be harder to work in a different local authority to the one they live in. It might be harder to move to a different local authority.

2 The Scottish Government



The Scottish Government will give out the fund to the whole of Scotland. People will apply to the Scottish Government or through their local authority.

Advantages of this model



- It may lead to a more equal service.
- It might make it easier for people to make changes to their lives. It might be easier to work in a different local authority to the one they live in. It might be easier to move to a different local authority.

Disadvantages of this model



- It could cost a lot more money to organise.
- The Government do not have a lot of experience in giving cash payments to people directly.
- Applying for the fund may be more difficult.

3 **Another organisation**



Another organisation could give out the fund to the whole of Scotland. People could apply to the organisation or through local authorities. This would help to deliver a more person centred service.

Advantages of this model



- It may lead to a more equal service.
- It should be easier for a person to make changes to their life. It will allow people to look for work in different local authority areas.

Disadvantages of this model



- It could cost a lot more money to organise.
- Applying for the fund may be more difficult.

4 Creating a new partnership



This option would let us create a new partnership with voluntary organisations. This may put disabled people and carers in charge of the way the fund is spent.



This would help to deliver a service where disabled people and carers work with the Government to develop a new way to give out the fund.



This new system would take applications from people all over Scotland or people will apply through their local authority.

Advantages of this model



- It may lead to a more equal service.
- It might make it easier for people to make changes to their lives. It might be easier to work in a different local authority to the one they live in. It might be easier to move to a different local authority.
- It would put disabled people and organisations that support them in charge of managing the fund.

Disadvantages of this model



- Applying for the fund may be more difficult



Question 6

When the Scottish Government are given funding, what model do you think will be the best for Scotland?

Equality



We will make sure that we treat people fairly when developing a new fund. When we are developing the new fund we will check that we are making a fund that is fair.



Question 7

For people to live independent lives it is important that people are not unfairly treated or feel unequal.

Do you think that there are any issues that might make people feel this way?

For example, this could be because of their disability or religion.

How do you think we can improve things for people who feel unfairly treated or unequal?

Tell us what you think








1. Do you think the idea is a good one?

- Yes
 No
 Not sure



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	<p>Are you? (Please put a tick beside your answer)</p> <p>Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>What is your first name?</p>
	<p>What is your last name?</p>
	<p>What is your address and postcode?</p>
	<p>What is your phone number?</p>
	<p>What is your email address?</p>

I am answering as..... (please tick your answers)



A Person

Are you happy for your answers to be seen by other people? (on the Scottish Government website)

Yes No

If you are happy for your answers to be seen by other people please tick one of the boxes below.

Yes, show my answers, name and address.

Yes, show my answers but not my name and address.

Yes, show my answers and name but not my address.

Are you happy for the Scottish Government to contact you about your answers?

Yes No

An Organisation

The name and address of your organisation will be seen by other people (on the Scottish Government website)

Are you happy for your answers to be seen by other people?

Yes No

Are you happy for the Scottish Government to contact you about your answers?

Yes No



Question 1

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Please write your answer here:



What parts did not work well?

Please write your answer here:

Question 2



When people no longer receive ILF, how should the money then be spent?

Should it be spent in the same way? Yes No

If not, how do you think the money should be spent?

Please write your answer here:

Question 3

If ILF is not going to continue, how would you like to see the money used?



Please write your answer here:

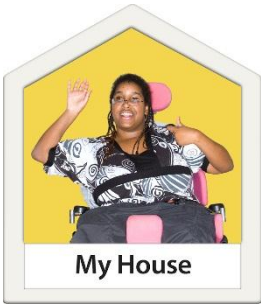
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Please write your answer here:

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What is the most important thing that we need to do to help people live more independent lives?

Please write your answer here:



Question 6

When the Scottish Government are given funding, what model do you think will be the best for Scotland?

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How do you think we can improve things for people who feel unfairly treated or unequal?



Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions.

Your answers will help us to make a decision on the Independent Living Fund.



Please send your answers to us by 1 November 2013



By email to: ILF@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



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This easy read was made by the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability for the Scottish Government

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ISBN: 978-1-78256-810-0 (web only)

APS Group Scotland
DPPAS14603 (08/13)

