



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01554

Name of petitioner

Jacq Kelly on behalf of Leonard Cheshire Disability

Petition title

Improve the provision of disabled-friendly housing

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to take action to ensure that all new homes in Scotland are built to fully meet all the Lifetime Homes Standards, with at least 10 per cent of new homes built to full wheelchair accessibility standards.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

We have been in touch with MSPs from across the political spectrum. These include Jim Hume, Marco Biagi, Alison Johnstone, Siobhan McMahon, Kezia Dugdale, James Kelly and Sarah Boyack, who lodged a Parliamentary Motion highlighting the concerns around the lack of accessible housing.

We wrote to the Scottish Government Housing Minister about this issue and received a response noting the importance of accessible housing, but which failed to provide a commitment for the government to introduce a national target on the number of disabled-friendly homes and which did not address our specific concerns.

In addition to this, we published a report in 2014 highlighting this issue and have been campaigning on the issue nationally. We presented our report at the Cross-Party Group on Disability and are submitting a petition on this same subject to the National Assembly for Wales.

Petition background information

500,000 people across the UK become disabled every year. That means homes need to be adaptable, so that in the future they can add grab rails and wet rooms, stairlifts or hoists. But many existing homes can't be adapted at all, and even with newly built homes, most can't be adapted cheaply. Critically, in Scotland at the current rate of increase, it would take 62 years for there to be enough wheelchair accessible social housing in Scotland to meet demand:

- Almost 20,000 people with disabilities are waiting for homes on housing waiting lists in Scotland, equating to more than 1,600 for every local authority;
- Almost three quarters (71%) of people in Scotland report that they live in a home without an accessible front door; and

- One in six people with disabilities in the UK and half of all disabled children are living in housing that isn't suitable for their needs.

Disabled-friendly homes are, by design, cheaper and easier to adapt than other homes: installing a stair lift in a Lifetime Home can cost as little as £2,500, but if the wall by the stairs is not strong enough, the cost of replacing or reinforcing the wall could be five or ten times that. If a bathroom is big enough for a wheelchair to fit into by design, the only cost to adapt the home may be around £300 to install grab bars. Whereas if the doorway needs to be widened and the wall needs to be strengthened, costs could easily be 30 times higher.

For further information, please read our report: ***No Place Like Home: 5 Million Reasons to Make Housing Disabled-Friendly*** (2014):

<<http://www.leonardcheshire.org/sites/default/files/no-place-like-home-leonard-cheshire-disability.pdf>>.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/hiddenhousingcrisis>

Related information for petition

<http://www.leonardcheshire.org/campaign-us/our-campaigns/home-truths#.VMILE--zXIU>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

02 / 03 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion

Signing this petition is the right thing to do economically, sustainably and ethically..