

PE1554/X

Ms Sigrid Robinson
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Housing & Community Care
Executive Director John Walker

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Dear Ms Robinson

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1554

Thank you for your letter of 1st April 2015 asking for information about the level of disabled friendly housing in Perth and Kinross and giving us the opportunity to comment on the petition. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Q1 – What are your Local Authority's views on what the petition seeks?

Perth and Kinross Council welcomes the principle that all new homes should meet the Lifetime Homes Standards. Further, we note the proposal that at least 10% of new homes should be built to fully adapted wheelchair standards, though we would emphasise the importance of responding to locally based targets that reflect our local population and demographic to address our specific needs.

Through the Local Housing Strategy Perth & Kinross Council aims to address the housing needs of all individuals in our communities as far as possible. We recognise the importance of investing in new build provision in making a contribution to meeting the needs of people who require more accessible housing. However, we also make a substantial investment to help people with disabilities to remain in their own homes by adapting our own houses and providing grants to owners through our Scheme of Assistance.

Q2 – What percentage of new build homes within your local authority area are adapted to full wheelchair accessibility standards?

We do not have information across all tenures on the percentage of new build houses which will be adapted to wheelchair standards. We consider the need for wheelchair adapted housing for all Council and Housing Association new build developments and will include this and other specialist housing where it is required and practical to provide it. The specific needs of individuals can also be met at a

later stage when the houses are about to be allocated through 'Stage 3' funded adaptations undertaken by Housing Associations.

Q3 – How many people within your local authority area are:

(i) On a waiting list for disabled friendly housing?

Currently we have 25 applicants on our waiting list for wheelchair adapted property. The term 'disabled friendly housing' is not currently recognised in our allocations policy.

(ii) Accommodated with disabled friendly housing?

11 applicants were re-housed from our waiting lists into fully adapted disabled housing in 2014/15. However, we can't provide an accurate answer across all tenures.

In broader terms, the Scottish House Condition Survey 2011-13 estimated that 10,000 (15%) homes in Perth and Kinross may have adaptations for disabled occupants. Broken down by tenure, this includes 4,600 (11%) owner occupied households, 3,600 (36%) social housing tenants and 800 (8%) households in the private rented sector. However, this estimate is based on a small percentage of all stock and takes account of the full spectrum of adaptations in houses.

I hope this has been helpful but please get in touch if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely

John Walker
Executive Director (Housing & Community Care)