



PE1554/FF

Public Petition Clerks,
Room T3.40,
The Scottish Parliament,
Edinburgh,
EH99 1SP

1st December 2015

Dear Ms. Robinson,

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE01554

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to evidence from the Scottish Government relating to Leonard Cheshire Disability's current petition on the subject of disabled friendly housing.

Leonard Cheshire Disability wishes to thank the Scottish Government for such a detailed response to questions raised at the committee. Although we maintain that provision to install a tracking hoist and a through floor lift should be included in Scottish building regulations, we recognise that the current guidelines are significantly better than in other parts of the UK. We would encourage the Scottish Government to consider how these two standards could be added to future revisions of building regulations. We would also support the Scottish Government exploring ways in which it could provide incentives for developers to build properties of a standard higher than that required by the current regulations, and which are fully adaptable for disabled people.

Similarly, it is encouraging to hear that the Scottish Government has been working with local authorities to increase the number of wheelchair accessible homes. However it is unclear from the correspondence whether the Scottish Government will be monitoring uptake of the guidance or whether local authorities will be required to report on their progress towards building more wheelchair accessible homes. The Scottish Government should put robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms in place in order to ensure parity of access across Scotland, and so that in the future all disabled people are able to access a fully wheelchair accessible home.

Yours Sincerely,

Philippa Faulkner
Policy and Public Affairs Officer (Scotland)

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen **Founder:** Group Captain Lord Cheshire V.C., O.M., D.S.O., D.F.C.
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VAT no: 899 3223 75. Registered office: 66 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL.