

**PE1554/N**

East Renfrewshire Council Email of 7 May 2015

Dear Sigrid,

Please accept my late response to this petition but I hope you will be able to consider the views of East Renfrewshire Council.

Responses to the questions asked are as follows:-

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

The principal of building all new homes to meet the Lifetime Homes Standards and at 10% to full wheelchair access standard is supported by East Renfrewshire Council. However it is considered that further research into the cost and possible deliverability issues be undertaken to establish the impacts this may have on the public and private house building industry. Once this research has been completed a public consultation exercise should also be undertaken. .

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

East Renfrewshire has no current or recent developments that fully meet the Lifetime Homes Standards and to our knowledge there approx 10 within East Renfrewshire that have been specifically built for wheelchair users. East Renfrewshire Council is aware of the changing demographics within its area and the existing and forecast rise in elderly population which will increase demand for accessible homes.

The mainstream house builders don't tend to go beyond the minimum standards which don't require full wheelchair access to or within dwellings.

Although the current building regulations don't require full compliance with Lifetime Homes Standards, the majority of the standards are adopted into the Technical Guidance for compliance with the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004. These accessibility standards have been in the guidance since 2007 and all new homes constructed under building warrants applied for from 2007 onwards have had to meet these standards.

Also, where significant alterations are made to existing properties we apply the current regulations where reasonable to do so, and ensure that where alterations are made to properties, the alterations do not make the layout worse in terms of accessibility i.e. moving a kitchen which is already on the accessible storey onto a non accessible storey would not be given permission.

- How many people within your local authority area are: (i) on a waiting list for disabled friendly housing; and (ii) accommodated with disabled friendly housing?

**(1)** East Renfrewshire Council Housing Services operates a common housing register with Arklet and Barrhead Housing Associations called 'East Renfrewshire Housing Register (ERHR)' As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 the ERHR had 164 households who consider themselves to be disabled.

**(2)** The number (even an estimate with explanation) of people currently residing in "disabled friendly" council housing e.g. those houses with adapted showers (wet floor or level access) and ramps? – 824 tenancies

Gillian McCarney  
Planning and Building Standards Manager  
Environment (Planning, Property and Regeneration)