

**PE1554/T**

North Ayrshire Council Email of 11 May 2015

Dear Ms Robinson

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION [PE1554](#)

Firstly, my apologies for missing the 5th May deadline. I was out of the office last week.

In response to the petition points, on behalf of North Ayrshire Council:

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

I can confirm that all social housing development in North Ayrshire meets Housing for Varying Needs standards (part 1 and part 2 as applicable). These national standards considers the changing needs of tenants over their lifetime and makes reference to the 'Lifetime Homes' standard described by Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The North Ayrshire Local Housing Strategy 2011-2016 sets out the requirement that 3% of all new affordable housing should meet the needs of wheelchair users. This figure is based on research carried out during the development of the LHS, and includes an assessment of need indicated by applicants on the North Ayrshire Housing Register.

Whilst North Ayrshire Council remain committed to developing homes which meet the needs of all our local residents, including those who use a wheelchair, we would not support increasing, or decreasing, the level of wheelchair provision we aim to provide, without a robust evidence base to support such a move.

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

As at April 1 2015, the percentage of new build affordable homes within North Ayrshire that are adapted to full wheelchair accessibility standards is **3.57%**. This includes homes built by North Ayrshire Council and local RSL Partners.

- **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?**

It should be noted that North Ayrshire Council do not use the term 'disabled friendly

housing' when classifying property type. When answering the following questions all wheelchair liveable, amenity standard, and sheltered housing units have been taken into consideration:

(i) As at 1 April 2015, there were a total of **136** North Ayrshire Housing Register (NAHR) applicants requiring some form of wheelchair liveable, amenity standard or sheltered housing within North Ayrshire.

(ii) As at 1 April 2015, there were a total of **2,076** people accommodated with wheelchair liveable, amenity standard or sheltered housing. This includes housing provided by North Ayrshire Council and local RSL Partners, as part of the NAHR.

As at 31 March 2014, within North Ayrshire Council's own stock there were an further 39 general needs homes adapted to wheelchair liveable condition, and 162 adapted to be suitable for ambulant disabled clients.

Trudi Fitzsimmons  
Principal Officer, Strategy  
Housing Services  
North Ayrshire Council