



Chief Executive: Mark J Boden

Ms Sigrid Robinson
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Our Ref: L13.5.15SR
Your Ref:

Date: As postmark

Dear Ms Robinson

CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1554

Thank you for your email dated 1st April 2015, seeking responses to the above. In respect of the specific questions raised I can advise as follows:

Through our Local Housing Strategy, Strategic Housing Investment Plan and Housing Need and Demand Assessment, we have specific evidence and information on the level of need and a clear commitment to future-proofing homes particularly through accessibility. I would suggest however, that an enforced blanket percentage would not be an appropriate means of achieving what is required. This is particularly true for the private sector locally where the prevalence is one-off self-build homes and where there is a very limited developer led market. The additional costs of full wheelchair access may prove prohibitive for some people. The principle which we support is accessibility and flexibility.

The percentage of new build homes adapted to full wheelchair accessibility standards locally is not recorded as a percentage, however all new houses build in Shetland are constructed to meet the minimum standards of accessibility as set out in the Domestic Technical Handbook provided by the Scottish Government. The Planning Service is not aware of any constructions of new homes which are fully in accordance with the Lifetime Homes Standards.

There is no specific list for disabled friendly housing but currently we have 68 applications where there is a requirement for bedroom and bathroom to be on the same floor, 54 requiring level access property, 24 applications require wheelchair/aids storage and 2 applications requiring wheelchair adapted property. Note that some applicants may have more than one requirement so these should not all be taken to be separate applications.

In terms of current provision the local authority and the housing association have the following provision:

Very sheltered - 29 units
Wheelchair accessible – 24 units
Medium dependency – 14 units
Ambulant disabled – 138 units
Other special adapted – 6 units

I hope this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

M.J. BÖDEN
Chief Executive