

PE1554/Y

Dumfries and Galloway Council Email of 18 May 2015

Dear Sigrid

Apologies for not responding sooner. In relation to the three issues you have asked for us to consider, my responses are set out below

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

The petition request would clearly be a positive development in terms of minimum standards for affordable new homes. However, the difficulty we all face is how this is balanced against reducing capital allocations and increased costs, particularly in a rural area like Dumfries and Galloway. On balance a less ambition target linked clearly to assessed need would be a more appropriate approach.

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

As a stock transferred authority, the Council does not have any stock but we are a partner within the Common Housing Register. There are currently 411 homes categorised as amenity, which would include properties with a range of adaptations, from minor to major. This equates to approximately 3% of all stock. The Council does not have a definitive stock list of all fully adapted wheelchair accessible standard properties but it is information that will in future be gathered as part of our CHR as it develops. The current Strategic Housing Investment Plan sets a target of 20% of all new affordable housing should be sheltered / amenity housing. This equates to an additional 120 units over the next five years, if the Plan is delivered in full.

- 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?

There are 192 applicants registered for sheltered or amenity housing on the D&G CHR register.

I trust this is of assistance

John Lynch

Head of Strategic Housing, Housing Options and Homelessness, Welfare Reform,
Revenues and Benefits
Community and Customer Services
Dumfries and Galloway Council