

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on PE2027, Launch the Changing Places Toilet fund, submitted by Sarah Heward on behalf of The Tyndrum Infrastructure Group

Background

Changing Places toilets: Changing Places toilets are a high standard of very accessible toilet, the technical specifications of which have been defined by the [Changing Places Consortium](#) campaign group. Changing Places facilities are different from regular accessible toilets and must include the following as standard:

- height-adjustable, adult-sized changing bench.
- ceiling track hoist system.
- adequate space for the disabled person and up to two assistants.
- toilet with space both sides for assistants.
- privacy screen.
- wide paper roll.
- large waste disposal bin.
- washbasin, preferably height adjustable.
- back rest on toilet seat.
- non-slip flooring.
- In addition, showers are recommended for managed buildings, such as leisure centres or transport hubs, but are not a requirement.

Building Standards requirements: All new buildings, conversions or extensions built in Scotland must meet the requirements set out in Schedule 5 of the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004, as amended. These building standards, referred to as "functional standards", describe the functions a building should perform, with Scottish Building Standard 3.12 stating:

“Every building must be designed and constructed in such a way that sanitary facilities are provided for all occupants of, and visitors to, the building in a form that allows convenience of use and that there is no threat to the health and safety of occupants or visitors.”

Detailed technical guidance for architects, engineers, and other building industry professionals on how to meet these requirements are provided in technical handbooks, which are published and regularly updated by the Scottish Government. There are separate handbooks for domestic and non-

domestic buildings¹, reflecting the different requirements for each type of building.

The [2023 non-domestic technical handbook](#) states that changing places toilets should be fitted in new:

- retail premises, assembly, or entertainment buildings with a floorspace over 5,000m² or a capacity of more than 1,000 people, or where a building contains a swimming pool.
- hospitals.
- secondary schools providing community facilities.

Where a Changing Places toilet is not already present within a building, one should be provided where a building in any of the above categories is created by conversion or when the floorspace of such a building is extended by 25% or more.

Changing Places Toilet fund: The [SNP Manifesto 2021](#) included a commitment that:

“Over the next parliamentary term we will invest £10 million to increase the number of Changing Places toilets across the country and support mobile Changing Places toilets to allow people to access events or outdoor venues around the country.”

This commitment was repeated in the [Programme for Government 2021-22](#).

Scottish Government Action

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport [wrote to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee](#) on 8 June about this petition, highlighting

“...that Scotland is facing the most difficult public spending environment that this devolved parliament has ever seen...Therefore, funding for the construction of Changing Places Toilets has not yet been allocated and the timeframes for the distribution of this funding have not yet been announced. Further information on this investment will be available over the course of this parliamentary term.”

Scottish Parliament Action

The Scottish Parliament has, to date, not considered the launch of the Changing Places Toilet fund in any detail.

¹ A ‘non-domestic’ building is any building other than a house or block of flats, this includes shops, entertainment venues, hospitals, schools, offices, and factories.

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