

Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government

Changing Places Toilets: a consultation

PCF RESPONSE

JULY 2019

Summary

The Paediatric Continence Forum (PCF) is an independent group of healthcare professionals that engages with the Government and healthcare organisations, with the aim of improving paediatric continence services nationally. This also includes resources and facilities for children and young people with special needs. Formed in 2003, the PCF has close links to the charities ERIC (The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity) and Bladder and Bowel UK (formerly PromoCon). Its membership includes paediatricians and specialist nurses, with formal representation from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Royal College of Nursing, the Community Practitioners' and Health Visitors' Association (CPHVA) and the School and Public Health Nurses Association (SAPHNA). For the purposes of this consultation, one of our company supporters, Clos-o-Mat, a producer of Changing Places toilets, has contributed to this consultation.

We welcome the Government's consultation into Changing Places toilets in public spaces, ensuring that everyone can engage in public life in the knowledge they have access to toilets that cater to them. However, to be certain that Changing Places toilets cater for everyone, the default size should be 12m². Further, the toilets need to be properly equipped to cater to all who need to use them.

Response to Questions

Question 9: Where a Changing Places toilet is provided in a building (listed in Box A) that undergoes a material alteration, an extension or a change of use, should a smaller-sized facility of a minimum of 3m by 3m (9m²) be provided? Please explain your reasons.

The optimum size for a Changing Place toilet is 12m², and this should therefore be the default size. This will ensure that all the necessary equipment can fit in, and those who need to use it have room to manoeuvre so that it is accessible for everyone.

If it is not possible to install a 12m² toilet, then a 9m² should be considered as a small toilet as better than none. If a smaller sized toilet is proposed, it would need to be supported by a formal case and reviewed by the building inspector to ensure this is the only option. A 9m² changing place would grant access to some that would otherwise be denied facilities but would still restrict the use by some people.

Question 10: Do you agree that the standard and smaller sized Changing Places toilet include all the equipment listed in boxes B & C?

No

If no, please indicate whether you think more or less equipment should be included: More

From our experience interacting directly with the owners and users of Changing Places toilets, we believe that the following equipment is an important part of the facility:

- Hand towels as an alternative to hand dryers
- A suitable, wipeable surface for equipment
- Cleaning equipment
- Sanitary products for the changing table after use
- A hand soap dispenser
- Hooks for equipment
- A shower, which provides users with more independence and dignity.

Question 11: Please use this question to provide any other commentary or observations you have on the proposals to make provision for Changing Places toilets and the size of and equipment in Changing Places toilets.

Where Changing Places are installed, staff and building owners should be trained on how to use the facilities. There should be clear signage both inside and outside the building so that people are aware that it is available.

Changing Places toilets should be available to use for people near the facilities regardless of whether they are directly using the building's other services, due to the lack of alternative options often found in public spaces.

Sometimes accessible toilets such as Changing Places are improperly managed and are used for other things, such as storage locations. This must be discouraged so that they can be used as intended and public spaces can become more inclusive.

Question 14: Do you have any evidence that you could provide on ongoing maintenance costs of Changing Places toilets? If yes, please include your evidence in your response.

We are aware that our member Clos-o-Mat charges £380 per annum for a standard maintenance contract for a 12m² room.

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