



Housing for disabled people

What we found out and what happens next



Equality and
Human Rights
Commission

Easy Read

About us



We are called the **Equality and Human Rights Commission.**

We work to make sure everyone is treated fairly and gets their rights.



About this report



This report is about housing for disabled people.

Disabled people have a right to:

- live in the community with everyone else
- make their own choices
- live how they want to.

This is called **independent living.**





The UK Government has promised to make this happen.



But many disabled people do not get the housing and support they need.

This can stop them having a good life.



In 2016 we started to look at housing for disabled people.

We spoke to disabled people and other people to find out what was happening.



This report tells you what we found out.

It tells you:

- the main problems for disabled people with housing
- what we want to happen next.

The main problems for disabled people with housing

1. It is hard for disabled people to get the right housing

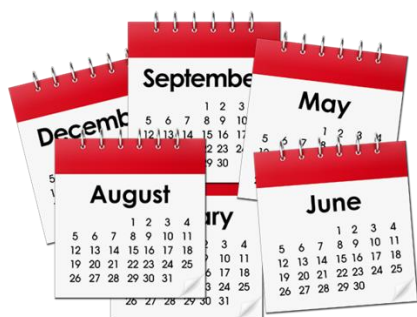
Many disabled people live in houses that are wrong for them and their disability.

For example, some disabled people have to eat, sleep and wash in the same room.

Sometimes family members have to carry them from one room to another.

Many disabled people have to wait a long time to get a house they can live in.

There is not enough information about houses that are easy for disabled people to live in.



2. There are not enough houses for disabled people



Many houses are hard for disabled people to live in.

For example, for people who use a wheelchair.



Many councils do not have the right information about what houses disabled people need.



Councils are not building enough new houses that are easy for disabled people to live in.



Some building companies don't want to build houses that are easy for disabled people to live in.

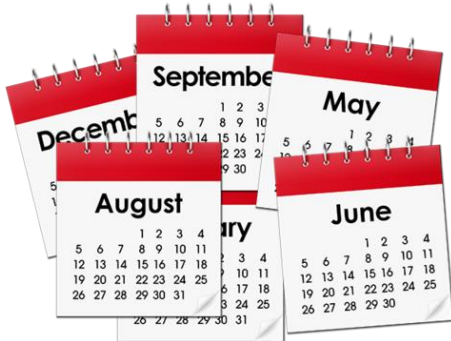
The companies think they will make less money from these houses.

3. It is hard for disabled people to change their houses if they need to

Disabled people may need to make some changes to their houses.

For example, a disabled person may need:

- a lift to help them get up the stairs
- a ramp to get into the house.



Many disabled people have to wait a long time to get the changes they need.



Some private landlords don't want to change their houses.

Private landlords are people who rent out their homes for money.

This can make it hard for disabled people to live there.

4. Disabled people don't get the support they need to live in the community

Many disabled people need other things apart from a place to live.



For example, disabled people may need:

- advice and support to choose the right place to live
- support to live at home or to change their homes.



But this support can be very hard to get.

The main things we want to happen next



We want governments and local councils in Wales, Scotland and England to work on the following things:



1. Talk more with disabled people to find out what they need.

2. Build more houses that disabled people can live in.



More new houses should be built that are easy for disabled people to live in.

This includes people who use a wheelchair.



There should be a plan about this for England, Scotland and Wales.

Governments and local councils should have better information and plans about:



- the housing that disabled people need
- how many houses are easy for disabled people to live in.



Councils in Wales and Scotland should show how their housing plans are fair for disabled people.

They should share documents about this.

2. Make it easy for disabled people to make changes to their houses if they need to



Disabled people may need to change their houses so they are easier to live in.

For example, a disabled person may need wide doors for their wheelchair or a different toilet.



It should be quicker and easier to make changes to disabled people's houses.

Disabled people should not have to wait a long time for small changes.



It should be easier to make changes to:

- houses that disabled people rent from private landlords
- parts of houses that people share. For example, a hallway in a block of flats.



There should be more advice and information for disabled people about:

- houses for disabled people
- how to make changes to their homes.



Private landlords in Wales should get training about making houses easy for disabled people to live in.

3. Make sure disabled people live somewhere that is right for them



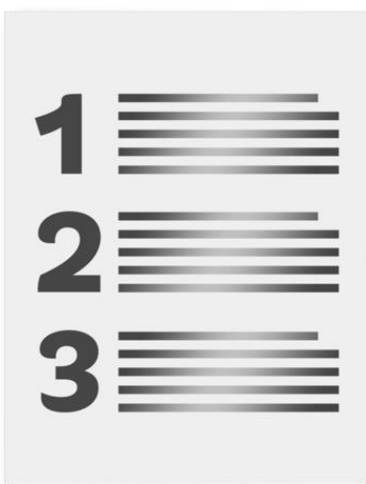
Governments and councils should make social housing work better for disabled people.

Social housing is housing that is cheaper to rent than other housing.



Councils should have better rules, information and support to help disabled people:

- have a real choice about where they live
- find a house that is right for them.



For example, councils should have a list of housing that is good for disabled people.

The list should be used in the best way to help disabled people find the right place to live.



4. Support for disabled people to live in the community

Some disabled people can get support to rent a home.



The government wants to make new rules about this.

The government should make sure that new rules give disabled people all their rights.



Local councils should make sure that disabled people can get all the support they need to:

- live in the community
- keep safe and well.

For example:

- support to choose the right place to live
- support to live at home if they need it
- the right healthcare.



To find out more



www.equalityhumanrights.com



If you have any questions about this report
you can email:

correspondence@equalityhumanrights.com

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