



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Draft Proposal for the Provision of a Changing Places Toilet in Certain Buildings

Easy to Read Information

Easy to Read information on the proposal to change building regulations to provide a changing places toilet in certain publically accessible buildings



This document was checked by people with intellectual disabilities who use easy to read information to make sure it is easy to understand.



What is this document about?



Minister of State, Peter Burke, asked for a public consultation looking at the rules about building changing places toilets in certain publically accessible buildings.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage want to hear the views of all people including:

- People with disabilities who use changing places toilets
- People who support others to use changing places toilets
- Builders
- Building designers
- Building owners
- Other professionals who have an interest in changing places toilets
- Members of the public who have an interest in changing places toilets



Please read all of this information before you take part in the consultation.

You can find more information on the consultation at [gov.ie/consultations](https://www.gov.ie/consultations).

You can take part in the consultation until 5:30 p.m. on Thursday 12 May 2022.



The Government of Ireland are thinking about making new building regulations.



Building regulations are important rules that builders, building designers and owners of buildings must follow when they build new places.



The government are thinking about new rules that may provide more changing places toilets in certain publically accessible buildings around the country.



Changing places toilets are accessible for people with disabilities who need extra support using the toilet.

There is extra equipment in changing places toilets to support the person using it and any person supporting them or caring for them.



What are the aims of changing the rules?

By changing the building rules we hope:

1. To make sure more changing places toilets are built in some new buildings, once the building is a big enough size and there needs to be toilets for use by the public in that building.
2. To make sure each changing places toilet built meets the standards, and is easily accessible and easy to use.
3. To improve the usability of some buildings we already have by building a changing places toilet in them.

This can happen when:

- the building gets bigger,
 - the use of the building changes,
 - the building is a big enough size for a changing places toilet.
4. To support the aims of the Equality Act 2004, the Disability Act 2005, and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These are important laws about disability and equality.
 5. To help Ireland work on UN Sustainable Development Goals by making Ireland more inclusive.
 6. To support Universal Design to make buildings more usable for everyone.

What choices do the Government have and what happens next?

The government have 3 options they can think about when they make the rules about changing places toilets;

Option A Do nothing

Option B Change the building rules so that more buildings will have a changing places toilet; or

Option C Make more guides about changing places toilets and hope that people build them without needing rules to do it.



The government think they will choose option B but they want to ask the public first. They will do this by having this consultation.

This consultation gives people a chance to give their opinions and views on changing places toilets.

This document will help you to understand the consultation so you can have your say about making new rules about changing places toilets.

You can ask someone to support you to understand this document so you can be part of the consultation.



What are the good things about changing the building rules?



Right now, there are no rules to say that certain publically accessible buildings must have a changing places toilet.

Research by the National Disability Authority (NDA) says that between 17 thousand and 38 thousand people might need to use a changing places toilet in Ireland.

This does not include people who might support another person.

If the rules are changed so that a changing places toilet is needed in some buildings like hospitals, schools, museums and galleries then;

- there could be up to 80 new changing places toilets built each year,
- people who need them will be able to use them and have more dignity,
- other private building projects might also include a changing places toilet.

What buildings will changing places toilets be in if the rules change?

It is important to know that changing places toilets can only be in large buildings that are big enough for them to fit correctly.

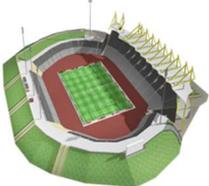
It also important to know that the number of people that use the building help us to know if it needs a changing places toilet or not.

For each type of building there will be a different minimum size before it must have a changing places toilet in it.

The buildings that changing places toilet may be in are:



- Hospitals,
- Primary care centres,
- Places where people socialise together like;
 - an amusement arcade, concert hall, theatre, public library, hall, cinema, gallery, museum,
 - conference centre, leisure or sports centre, place of public worship,
 - public house, restaurant.
- Sports pavilion, stadium, grandstand buildings,
- Roadside service facility that provides food hall / dining and toilet facilities,
 - School (primary, secondary or special schools)
 - Third level college, University, or other building for the provision of education,





- Station or other facility for air, rail, road or sea travel,
- Office- where members of the public can use the toilets,
- Shop, shopping centre or retail park,
- Hotels,
- Public toilets near parks and beaches,
- Toilet facilities in zoos, amusement parks or theme parks.



What equipment needs to be in a changing places toilet?



There are some things that a toilet must have so that the people that built it can call it a changing places toilet.

- A changing places toilet must have lots of extra space for the person using it and up to 2 assistants to help them if they need it.
- There must be floor area of at least 12.6m² (3m x 4.2m) with a ceiling height of 2.4m.
- There must be a changing bench that is big enough for an adult.

The bench must be height adjustable so it can move to change how high or low it is. The bench will help so that a person can have their personal care needs met or can have their clothes changed.

- There must be a hoist on the ceiling that can go around the whole room.
- The toilet must have extra space at both sides.
- There must be a sink that is height adjustable so it can move to change how high or low it is.
- There must be a privacy screen.
- There must be wide paper roll.
- There must be a large rubbish bin.

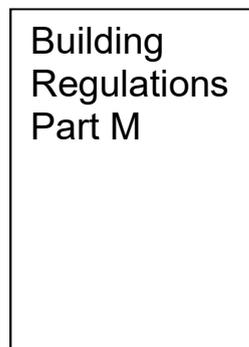


All of this equipment helps people to attend to their toileting needs with more dignity.

There is a lot of technical information included with the consultation documents to make sure changing places toilets work safely.

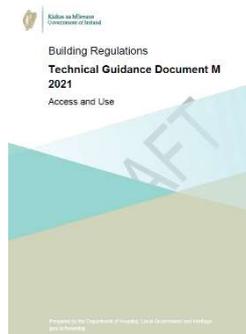
It is in the

- Draft Building Regulations Part M (Access and Use) document



and in

- **Red text** in the Draft Technical Guidance Document M (Access and Use)



The government will also consult with technical professionals to make sure this happens in the right way.

What are the costs of making more rules about changing places toilets?



It will cost a lot of money to build new changing places toilets if the Government make new building rules.

In new buildings the cost of a changing places toilet could be between 33 thousand euro and 68 thousand euro for each changing places toilet. Most often they will cost around 50 thousand euro.

If the changes to the rules happen, there could be up to 80 new changing places toilets built each year. This may cost building owners over 4 million euro each year.

For each changing places toilet it could cost over 3 thousand euro each year to make sure it runs well and is safe for people to use.

What will making these new building rules really mean?



Making these new rules will make it easier for people to be included in their community.



Making these rules will mean that society is more equal for everyone.



Making these rules will mean people will have more dignity in using places that need to be clean.



Making these rules will mean good things for businesses near a changing places toilet because when people can use the changing places toilet they will be able to visit and spend their money in businesses nearby.



It will be important to make sure changing places toilets run well and are safe for people to use after they are built. It will be worth making sure that changing places toilets work well for everyone.

Getting involved in the consultation

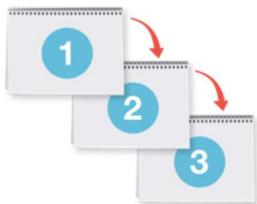
The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will read all the submissions before they make changes to the building rules. They may use some and not use others.

It is important to know the submissions may be on the department's website (gov.ie/housing) and everyone will be able to see them.

The submissions are not private.

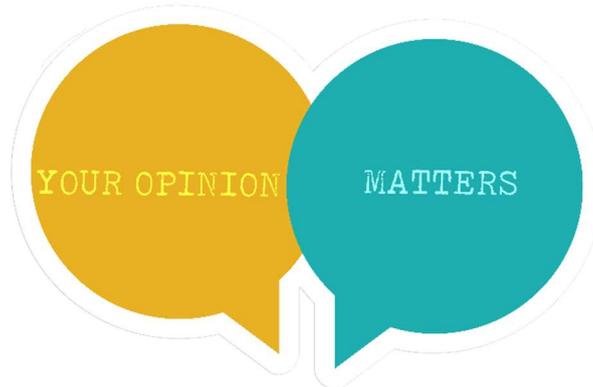
Any submission can be asked for under the Freedom of Information Act and Data protection laws so don't include any information you don't want other people to see or know about.

The Government want to know if making more rules about changing places toilets is a good idea.



1. Can you tell us what you think about changing places toilets?
2. Is there other equipment that needs to be in them to make them easier to use?
3. Can you tell us the 3 points that are important to you?
4. What you would like the government to know about changing places and how you can use them?
5. Are there other types of buildings that you think should have a changing places toilet?
6. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Please send an email to buildingstandards@housing.gov.ie to have your say.

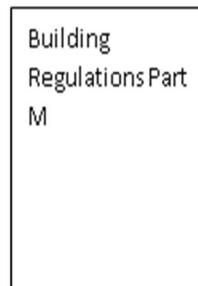
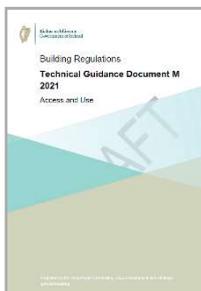


Click on the icons below to give us your opinion on changing places toilets.



For more information see the [Consultation Information Video](#)

You can find the technical guidance documents and more information on the consultation at gov.ie/consultations



gov.ie/housing



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