

Request for Information

Ref: 000139
FOI

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Questions

A request for clarifications about SBHA's Adaptation policy:

- How are applications for adaptations prioritised, (3.1)
- What constitutes exceptional circumstances (3.2)
- What was the bid from SBHA for Stage 3 funding for the General Adaptations Grant in:
 - 2024/5
 - 2025/6
 - 2026/7
 - and what did you receive for each of these periods (2.4)
- What the annual defined targets are (5.2) and how many households were waiting adaptations in:
 - 2024/5
 - 2025/6
 - 2026/7

The information requested is provided below:

How applications for adaptations are prioritised, (3.1)

Adaptations are prioritised based on outcome of a social work assessment, based on Scottish Borders Councils eligibility criteria - <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/i-get-service/eligibility-criteria> in which a risk level is attributed to the case, either critical or substantial.

What constitutes exceptional circumstances and why this case is not an exceptional circumstance (3.2)?

Exceptional circumstances are cases where there are unusual or compelling reasons to deviate from normal policy.

This case is not considered an exceptional circumstance due to the adaptations requested. To meet exceptional circumstances a whole-house approach is required with the property needing the following:

- Widening of all internal and external doorways.
- Installation of an internal stairlift to provide access between floors.
- Ramped access into and out of the property.
- Ramped access to the garden.

These are significant adaptations that affect the entire property rather than addressing one or two specific access issues. **The extent of the work shows that the property is potentially not**

suitable to meet tenants needs without major alterations. For this reason, the case does not meet the definition of an exceptional circumstance.

What the annual defined targets are (5.2) and how many households are awaiting adaptations in 2024/5, 2025/6 /7

The defined targets are the 3 bullet points noted in our policy. The below table to shows the information requested at year end and at present.

Year	Number of households awaiting adaptations	Average time and days to complete approved applications for medical adaptations	Percentage of approved applications for medical adaptations completed.
2024-25	37	90.81	72.99%
2025-26	41	125.51	68.22%
2026-27	42	29.39	30%

What was the bid from SBHA for Stage 3 funding for the General Adaptations Grant in 2024/5 and 2025/6/7 and what did you receive (2.4)

The below table shows what was bid and what was received for each year.

Year	Grant Bid	Grant Received
2024-25	£600,000	£191,300
2025-26	£600,000	£450,000
2026-27	£450,000	£414,000

Please note that this response constitutes full release under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Freedom Of Information, Scottish Borders Housing Association, Whinfield Road, Selkirk TD7 4EJ
FOI@sbha.org.uk; Tel: 01750 72 4444

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