



**REQUEST 17341**

**RESPONSE**

1. Does the local authority offer Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) above the statutory maximum and, if yes, how is this delivered:

Yes

Top ups (paid by local authority)

- Top ups (paid for by the local authority)?
- Loans?
- Other (please specify)

2. What is the total number of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) applications A) received and B) accepted by the local authority that have been above the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) statutory maximum amount over the following periods:

April 2021 to March 2022  
(A) 19 (B) 8

April 2022 to March 2023  
(A) 16 (B) 6

- April 2021 to March 2022
- April 2022 to March 2023
- April 2023 to March 2024?

April 2023 to March 2024  
(A) 8 (B) 7

Costs may not be obtained / available for all applications received which do not proceed due to a various reasons.

3. Are there any other means in which adaptations are funded by the local authority (if so please specify)?

Adaptations to Council properties are funded via the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

4. What was the local authority's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget for the periods:

- April 2021 to March 2022
- April 2022 to March 2023
- April 2023 to March 2024

£4,554,373  
£4,554,373  
£4,951,788

5. What proportion of the local authority's Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget was spent during the periods:

- April 2021 to March 2022

74% - impacted by the impact of the pandemic.

88% post COVID impact still

- April 2022 to March 2023

95%

- April 2023 to March 2024

6. What is the process for means-testing applicants for the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) in your local authority?
- All major adaptations funded by the DFG are subject to a mean test assessment with the exception of adaptations for children.
7. Are there any exemptions to the means test for people with rapidly progressive terminal conditions, such as MND in your local authority?
- Each case is considered individually and if appropriate an application for discretionary funding may be completed. Local Policy is currently under review.
8. Are there any circumstances in which the DFG mandatory means test is waived and, if so, what are those circumstances? (e.g. for adaptations under a certain cost or of a certain type)
- There are no exceptions to the means test however each case is considered individually and if appropriate an application for discretionary funding may be completed.
9. Has your local authority conducted any assessments (including an Impact Equality Assessment) or reviews on the appropriateness of means testing for individuals with rapidly progressive terminal conditions, such as MND or disability more widely?
- Local Policy is currently under review.
10. Do you currently have a fast-track application process in place to provide Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) funding more rapidly to applicants with urgent needs? If yes, what are the eligibility criteria to access this process?
- Work is prioritised with the highest priority level is Clinical Emergency.
11. How many DFG applications were A) received under the fast-track process (if applicable) and B) how many of these were approved under the fast-track process during the period:
- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ○ April 2021 to March 2022 | April 2021 to March 2022 |
| ○ April 2022 to March 2023 | (B) 32      (B) 13       |
| ○ April 2023 to March 2024 | April 2022 to March 2023 |
|                            | (B) 18      (B) 6        |
|                            | April 2023 to March 2024 |
|                            | (B) 14      (B) 9        |
- We do not categorise applications as 'fast track'. Figures above reflect our highest priority level of 'Clinical Emergency'.
- The difference between received and approved relate to cancelled applications by the customer.
12. Does your local authority maintain a record or register of accessible homes available for individuals with disabilities, including those living with progressive terminal conditions, such as MND
- Yes.

13. If such a register exists, how is it updated and made available to individuals and families in need of accessible housing?
14. If no record is maintained, are there any plans to develop a database or register of accessible homes in your local authority?

Records are updated whenever a change is made to a property i.e. on completion of an adaptation. This information is used by the Housing Allocations team.

N/A

**For the below questions use your definitions of small, medium and large adaptations.**

15. What was the average time taken (in days) complete the assessment of **A) small, B) medium and C) large-sized** adaptations under the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) during the period:
- April 2021 to March 2022
  - April 2022 to March 2023
  - April 2023 to March 2024?
16. What was the average time taken (in days) from the approval of **A) small, B) medium and C) large-sized** Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to the completion of the installation during the period:
- April 2021 to March 2022
  - April 2022 to March 2023
  - April 2023 to March 2024

Adaptations are not categorised in this way for the purposes of reporting.

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