

From the Minister of Finance

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Dear Henry

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS - RETROSPECTIVE INSTALLATIONS IN EXISTING PREMISES.

Thank you for your letter of 22 October 2021, advising that the Council has responded to my Department's recent consultation on Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) and requesting that consideration be given to establishing a fund here, similar to that in England, for retrospective installations of CPTs in existing premises.

I appreciate that the Council has provided a response to this important consultation. My Department's Building Standards Branch is currently analysing the responses and is working towards publishing a summary as quickly as possible.

I am aware of the £30 million funding for CPTs launched earlier this year in England and I have said previously that I would be very supportive of a proposal to the Executive to establish a similar fund to support retrofitting CPTs here.

The Department for Communities leads on disability policy and strategy and has a track record of establishing and administering grant funding in this area. I am very sympathetic to the dignity issues arising from the limited provision of changing places toilets and I will continue to support an equitable and accessible built environment for everyone. I appreciate your Council wants to do so as well and I wish you every success in working to expand the provision of CPTs in the Belfast community.

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CONOR MURPHY MLA MINISTER OF FINANCE

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