

AIDS & ADAPTATIONS

Choice works closely with the Health and Social Care Trusts, Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to provide aids and adaptations for tenants with sensory impairments or disabilities living in our accommodation.

This service can offer those tenants a measure of independence and have a positive effect on their well-being. Adaptations can improve the quality of life for many people by enabling them to live independently. If you are having difficulties accessing facilities to carry out normal day-to-day living activities, an aid or adaptation could help.

Please contact Choice should you have any queries or require advice on eligibility or available options.

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Your Guide to Aids and Adaptations

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What is classed as an aid or adaptation?

RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

Small/Miscellaneous

Grab/hand or stair rails, toilet frames, shower seats, alarm strobe light, vibrating pillow pads, additional/improved lighting etc.

Minor

Shower to replace bath, external ramps and steps, door entry systems, parking bays, stair lifts, lowering of kitchen work tops, enclosed supervised play areas, door widening, through floor lifts etc.

Major

Ground floor extensions, additional bedrooms and en-suite bathrooms, etc.

How do I apply for an adaptation?

You should contact your GP and explain the difficulties you are experiencing; they will refer you to an Occupational Therapist, Specialist Social Worker for the Deaf or Sensory Rehabilitation Worker. They will assess your difficulties and make recommendations to Choice explaining the aids or adaptations you require.

Small adaptations can be requested by contacting Choice on **0300 111 2211 (or scheme staff if available)** and we will arrange a home visit to discuss the adaptations options available without requiring an Occupational Therapist or Specialist recommendation.

What is not classed as an aid or adaptation?

Items which are not linked to the property, for example: wheelchairs, walking sticks, hearing aids, etc.

Although Choice does not provide these items, you may be able to obtain them through your GP, hospital or other health services.

What if my home cannot be adapted?

In some cases due to the layout, age or structure of your home, it may not be possible to adapt your property. Your Property Services Officer can advise on the possibility of alternative works. Your Housing Officer will assist you in applying for a transfer to another property if appropriate. Generally Choice will not carry out adaptations to your home if you have an existing transfer request pending.



When will work be completed?

ON RECEIPT OF A RECOMMENDATION:

Small/Miscellaneous

works adaptations are generally carried out by our maintenance contractors within a four week period.

Minor

works adaptations are passed to our Surveyor to carry out a detailed design for your Occupational Therapist to approve. We aim to complete these adaptations within 26 weeks.*

Major

work adaptations are passed to our Surveyor to carry out a detailed design, seek planning permission and building control approval and tender the work. We aim to complete these adaptations within 52 weeks.*

Do you have to pay for the adaptation?

Generally there is no charge for adaptations to your home. Choice works closely with the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which provide grants for approved aids and adaptations, for people with disabilities who live in a property belonging to the Association. Where adaptations are not grant funded the Association may fund the adaptation directly. Decoration and some floor coverings are not included in the grant so you will have to carry this out yourself.

*In certain circumstances applications must be made to gain approval from NIHE and other statutory bodies before adaptation work can proceed.

For any aid and adaptation enquiries please contact the Choice Services Centre on
T: 0300 111 2211.