



You and Your Home

Adapting your home

A guide to Disabled Facilities Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) are provided by your district or borough council to help disabled people live more independently in their own homes, where equipment and minor adaptations are not sufficient. The DFG can be used to provide a range of adaptations to your home, including:

- A wheelchair ramp or external wheelchair lift to make getting in/out of your home easier
- A stair lift or through-floor lift to help you access upstairs sleeping and washing facilities
- A level access or wet-room shower to make washing easier
- A toilet that allows hands free cleaning
- Wheelchair accessible kitchen facilities to support you to be independent with meal preparation.

You can apply for a DFG whether you own your own home, rent a home privately, or you are a council or housing association tenant.

A DFG is provided by the local district or borough council and they will work with you and partner agencies to establish what adaptations are required to meet your needs.

This normally means that you will have an assessment by an Occupational Therapist. The Occupational Therapist may be from Adult Care or from the hospital or community health team.

If you would prefer you can arrange, and pay for, a private Occupational Therapy assessment.

If you decide to have an assessment from a private occupational therapist, make sure they are fully qualified and are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). You can see if your occupational therapist is registered by checking the HCPC online register. You can check the register using this link www.hcpc-uk.org.uk/check/

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists has a website where you can search for a private occupational therapist in your area. www.cotss-ip.org.uk



A DFG is a means tested grant, which means that your income and savings, and those of your partner if you have one, are taken into account when your application for a grant is considered. If the adaptation is for a child under 18 years of age, there is no means test and the child will be awarded a full grant.

The district or borough council must be satisfied that the adaptations are “necessary and appropriate” both now and in the foreseeable future and they will also consider if the work recommended is “reasonable and practicable”, taking into account the age and condition of your property.

The maximum grant available is £30,000, but the amount of grant you will receive will depend on the cost of the work required and your financial assessment.

If you are applying for a DFG, you can employ your own architect to draw up plans for you and arrange your own builders to complete the works as long as the district or borough council is satisfied with your arrangements and certain conditions are met.

If you are unable to, or do not wish to arrange the work yourself, Adult Care and our design team can support you through the process, including arranging architects plans and commissioning the works required.

General information

Any equipment that is installed through a DFG, e.g. a stair lift, will come with a warranty. You will be responsible for servicing and maintenance of the equipment after this time.



You will need to inform your home insurance company of any equipment installed or adaptations made to your home, as it may affect your cover.

In order to qualify for a DFG, it must be your intention to remain in your home for 5 years unless you are unable to due to health problems.

If you own your own property and you receive a grant for £5,000 or more, the district or borough council will place a legal charge on your property. This will stay in place for 10 years and may mean that you will have to pay back some or all of the grant if you sell your house. This decision is made on a case by case basis, depending on your circumstances.

A DFG cannot be paid retrospectively for work completed before a grant has been applied for and agreed.

For more information or to make a referral, please contact Call Derbyshire on:

Tel: **01629 533190**

Email: **contact.centre@derbyshire.gov.uk**

This leaflet can be made available in large print, Braille, audio or alternate languages by calling **01629 532237**.

Adult Care, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock
DE4 3AG Call Derbyshire **01629 533190**