

PROVISION OF FINGER GUARDS IN COUNCIL PROPERTIES – PHASE 3

Abstract

This report seeks approval to the provision of supplementary funding from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund to progress Phase 3 of the installation of finger guards in selected non-housing properties, at an estimated cost of £15,500.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committees for their respective interests are recommended to:-

1. note the requirement for remedial safety measures to be carried out in specific non-housing properties;
2. approve the bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £15,500 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2002/03 for Phase 3 of a remedial safety measures programme;
3. instruct the Director of Property Services to progress Phase 3 of these works immediately.

1. INTRODUCTION

Report 688/00, approved by the respective Committees in June and August 2000, advised of a need to undertake a phased programme of protective measures to prevent young children trapping fingers in doors and sought approval of Phase 1 of a three stage prioritised and phased programme of finger guard installation commencing with buildings where occupants are most vulnerable.

Phase 1 has been completed and due to cost savings action was taken to bring forward additional works planned for Phase 2. Phase 2 has been completed and was similarly adjusted to bring forward works planned for Phase 3 which enables Phase 3 to be completed at lower cost than previously reported.

The Property Services Department seeks approval of funding arrangements to permit Phase 3 to proceed.

2. BACKGROUND

Discussions with the Health and Safety Executive have identified an increasing national trend in the number of incidents of children trapping their fingers, between the door and the hinge side of the frame.

Following an investigation of Angus Council accident statistics it is noted that there have been several recent accidents involving children's fingers being damaged in doors. Fortunately none of these resulted in the loss of any fingers or tips.

Following detailed investigation into the matter, and after undertaking a risk assessment, it has been determined that the appropriate course of action is to install appropriate protection at doors likely to present a risk.

Suitable proprietary finger guards have been researched and, following successful field trials in Andover and Letham Primary Schools, it has been determined that such finger guards should be fitted to the door stop on the hinge side only of all door openings, in Council non-housing properties, likely to present a risk.

All new and upgraded buildings will have finger guards installed at doors likely to present a risk.

Due to the large number of buildings and doors to be protected it is considered appropriate to undertake a three year phased programme of finger guard installation commencing with buildings where occupants are most vulnerable, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1

Primary & Nursery Schools - Part 1	All doors where practicable.	Phase 1 2000/01
Primary & Nursery Schools - Part 2 Secondary Schools, Children's Residential and Day Care Units	All doors where practicable except in Secondary Schools where only doors in the public areas and public toilets will be protected.	Phase 2 2001/02
Sports/Leisure Centres, Public Halls & Baths, Libraries & Museums	All doors except staff areas	Phase 3 2002/03

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of carrying out Phase 3 of these remedial safety measures, estimated as £15,500, cannot be contained within the Property Maintenance elements of the respective departmental revenue budgets for 2002/03 and it is therefore necessary for supplementary funding to be made available from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2002/03.

Due to economies achieved in Phases 1 and 2, Phase 3 can be undertaken at the lower cost of £15,500 instead of the previously reported £33,000.

Table2

Phase	Education Client Revenue	Renewal & Repairs Inc Fees	Total
1 - 2000/01	£20,000	£33,000	£53,000
2 - 2001/02	£20,000	£33,000	£53,000
3 - 2002/03	£0	£15,500	£15,500
Totals	£40,000	£81,500	£121,500

The cost of the programme of work detailed in this report can be contained within the provisions of the Property Renewal and Repair Fund for 2002/03.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

Any implications, as a consequence of discharging recommendations detailed in this report, will be managed in accordance with the standing procedures and processes established by the Property Services department.

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Director of Law & Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

6. CONCLUSION

The Committees for their respective interests are recommended to note the requirement for remedial safety measures to be carried out in specific non-housing properties; approve the bid for supplementary funding in the sum of £15,500 from the Property Renewal and Repair Fund in 2002/03 for Phase 3 of a remedial safety measures programme and instruct the Director of Property Services to progress Phase 3 of these works immediately.

REFERENCES

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Finance and Information Technology Committee	15 June 1998	922/98	Strategic Review of Renewal and Repair Funds.
Personnel and Property Services Committee	13 June 2000	688/00	Provision of finger guards in council properties – Phase 1
Finance and Information Technology Committee			
Education Committee	22 August 2000	688/00	Provision of finger guards in council properties – Phase 1

Personnel and Property Services Committee	12 June 2001	704/01	Provision of finger guards in council properties – Phase 2
Finance and Information Technology Committee			
Education Committee	21 August 2001	704/01	Provision of finger guards in council properties – Phase 2

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Provision of finger guards - Phase 3

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

M G Lunny
Director of Property Services

Appendix 1 Provision of Finger Guards – Phase 3

Leisure Services

Monikie Country Park	£770
Carnoustie Library	£80
Saltire Centre	£950
Montrose Swimmimg Pool	£630
Montrose Museum	£300
Forfar Baths	£630
The Meffan	£300
Montrose Town Hall	£1,490
Lochside Caravan Park	£400
Forfar Library	£140
Forfar Leisure Centre	£1,800
Forfar Country Park (Rangers)	£110
Brechin Town Hall	£1,350
Brechin Sports Centre	£500
Brechin Library	£300
Montrose Library	£220
Inglis Memorial Hall	£1,300
Kirriemuir Town Hall & Library	£1,600
William Lamb Studio	£100
Monifieth Library	£300
Reid Hall	£2,200
	£15,470
Montrose Tourist Information Office	£30
	£15,500