

Welcome to another edition of our Newsletter- Keeping you informed of any changes in Building Standards

July 2018

Building Standards Newsletter

eBuilding Standards.scot



GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The way in which our Organisation store, use and share information they hold about people they work with/for changed with the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation on 25th May 2018.

The information you supply will be used for the purpose for which you have provided it and appropriate measures are in place to protect your personal data. A full privacy notice which provides information about your rights under current data protection legislation and details about what will happen to your personal data can be found here. [Privacy Notice – Building Standards](#).

Update from BSD

Scottish Building Regulations Review of Energy Standards: ‘Call for Evidence’

A review of the energy standards of the Scottish Building Regulations has commenced. This review is considering the next steps to further enhance the energy performance of buildings and contribute to the green house gas abatement targets set under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009.

The first stage of the review is to consider the effectiveness and impact that the 2015 energy standards and the supporting guidance, had, or continues to have, on industry in delivering energy efficient buildings. Feedback received through this call for evidence will be considered in the next stage of the review. This consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks and further details can be found via the following link: [Review of Energy Standards](#)

Scottish Government Issues Consultation on Compliance and Enforcement and on Fire Standards

This consultation seeks to obtain the views and opinions of stakeholders on a review of building and fire safety regulatory frameworks in order to help ensure the safety of people in and around Scotland’s buildings.

The Consultation covers two main areas, as follows:

- The first part relates to the roles and responsibilities of people verifying, inspecting and certifying building work and strengthening enforcement of and compliance with building regulations.

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For more information, please see our website, www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/building-standards or call our Customer Service Centre on 01546 605518. If you have any comments on how to improve our service to you, please complete our Service Improvement Suggestion form available on our Performance and Customer Care webpage or in the leaflet stands in your local area office.

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- The second part of the consultation covers specific fire safety standards relating to external cladding and cavities, escape, the provision of sprinklers and finally, the proposal for a “central hub” for verifying complex fire engineered solutions.

The proposed changes outlined in the consultation aim to:

- Improve compliance with Building Standards during the design and construction of all buildings with a particular focus on complex and high value public buildings, making them safer for occupants; and address fire safety related issues in relation to high rise domestic buildings and certain other residential buildings.

For further details follow link: **[Compliance, Enforcement and Fire](#)**

Scottish Governments Building Standards Portal.

Submissions made via the portal continue to rise and Argyll and Bute Council continue to work with our customers to further streamline processes and procedures offering additional support either on-site or by telephone consultation. If you would like to take advantage of this service then please email beth.connelly@argyll-bute.gov.uk who will then contact you direct to arrange suitable dates/times to discuss your requirements. In addition if you wish to provide us with further suggestions as to how the building Standards Portal could be improved then please forward the details of these suggestions to beth.connelly@argyll-bute.gov.uk

On the 22nd May 2017 we contacted our regular users asking for assistance in the drawing title process for documents submitted via the portal and since then it has been much easier for our Surveyors to identify what the particular drawing refers to. We have however recently noticed that a number of individual documents are not flowing directly through to our Document Management System and have highlighted one of the reasons for this failure, as being the use of a character, i.e. comma, within the file name. We have since put a process in place to check our fail file daily but would be extremely grateful if this could also be taken into consideration when naming documents.

Staff Update

Alex Johnson, Building Standards Surveyor (based in Campbeltown) has recently retired from the Council and Alasdair MacLulich, Building Standards Surveyor (based in Oban) left his post in May. It goes without saying that we wish them both well and thank them for their years of service.

As a result we are currently recruiting for two Assistant/Building Standards Surveyors to join our team. The process to fill the Oban vacancy has been completed with a new postholder due to commence work in just over four weeks time.

The vacancy in the Mid Argyll Kintyre and Islay team has been advertised and will hopefully be filled over the next few months

Being two Surveyors down during the busy holiday period is challenging however by moving applications around our virtual team there should be no noticeable drop in performance

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Financial Position

Value of Building work in Argyll and Bute continues to be low with Building Warrant application numbers and fees received still depressed. As previously advised Argyll and Bute Council require to save between £11m and £34m between 2018-21.

Although Service Choices has left Building Standards untouched at this minute, with no savings to be made, we have been tasked with generating a balanced budget + 5% every year for the next three year period which we are hoping to achieve through commercialisation. Argyll and Bute Council are currently processing, to warrant stage only, applications submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council and Moray Council.

We will continue to ensure through regular checking of our performance this commercialisation is having no impact on the service we provide as 'Verifier' for the Argyll and Bute Council area.

User Forums 2018

This year's Forums will be held in September/October and once dates are finalised we will be back in touch.

Meanwhile if there are any topics you would like discussed please don't hesitate to let us know. Suggestion can be e-mailed to martin.matheson@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Customer Satisfaction

Argyll and Bute Council Building Standards will continue to seek your views on our local service, the views of our regular users are very important to us and assist in focusing our service delivery, we would be grateful therefore if you could spend a few minutes completing our [on-line customer satisfaction survey](#).

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