
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2007 No. 473

The Disability Discrimination (Service Providers and Public Authorities Carrying Out Functions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007

PART III

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS TO PHYSICAL FEATURES

Physical features

9. For the purposes of sections 21(2) and 21E(3) of the 1995 Act, the following are to be treated as physical features (whether permanent or temporary)—

- (a) any feature arising from the design or construction of a building on the premises occupied by the provider of services or by the public authority carrying out its functions;
- (b) any feature on the premises occupied by the provider of services or by the public authority carrying out its functions of any approach to, exit from or access to such a building;
- (c) any fixtures, fittings, furnishings, furniture, equipment or materials in or on the premises occupied by the provider of services or by the public authority carrying out its functions;
- (d) any fixtures, fittings, furnishings, furniture, equipment or materials brought by or on behalf of the provider of services or by or on behalf of the public authority carrying out its functions on to premises (other than the premises that they occupy)—
 - (i) in the course of providing services to the public or to a section of the public or in the course of carrying out its functions,
 - (ii) for the purpose of providing such services or carrying out such functions;
- (e) any other physical element or quality of any land comprised in the premises occupied by the provider of services or public authority carrying out its functions.

Reasonableness where consent of third party necessary for an adjustment to physical features of premises

10.—(1) This regulation prescribes particular circumstances, for the purposes of sections 21 and 21E of the 1995 Act, in which it is reasonable, and in which it is not reasonable, for a provider of services or a public authority carrying out its functions to have to take the steps specified in this regulation.

(2) Where—

- (a) under any binding obligation a provider of services or a public authority carrying out its functions is required to obtain the consent of any person to an alteration to premises which it occupies; and

- (b) that alteration is one which, but for that requirement, it would be reasonable for the provider of services or a public authority carrying out its functions to have to make in order to comply with a duty under section 21 or 21E of the 1995 Act,

it is reasonable for the provider of services or public authority carrying out its functions to have to request that consent; but it is not reasonable for it to have to make that alteration before that consent is obtained.

- (3) In this regulation “binding obligation” means a legally binding obligation (not contained in a lease) in relation to premises whether arising from an agreement or otherwise.

Reasonableness and design standards

11.—(1) This regulation prescribes particular circumstances, for the purposes of sections 21 and 21E of the 1995 Act, in which it is not reasonable for a provider of services or a public authority carrying out its functions to have to take the steps specified in this regulation.

(2) It is not reasonable for a provider of services or a public authority carrying out its functions to have to remove or alter a physical feature where the feature concerned—

- (a) was provided in or in connection with a building for the purpose of assisting people to have access to the building or to use facilities provided in the building; and
- (b) satisfies the relevant design standard.

(3) Whether a physical feature satisfies the relevant design standard shall be determined in accordance with Schedule 1.