

Housing

Your occupational therapist (OT) will be able to help with any concerns you have accessing your home. Your occupational therapist will discuss your housing situation and if it is appropriate will arrange to carry out an environmental assessment of your home.

This is usually done with an occupational therapist from your local Social Work department.

The purpose of the visit is to:

- Identify if the house can be adapted to meet your needs and the options for adaptation.
- Identify if the house can be accessed in the short term for visits.
- Identify any equipment that you need for both the long term and the short term.

The outcome of the visit could be any of the following:

- The house does not need any changes and is suitable for you going home.
- The house needs minor changes or equipment is needed.
- There are adaptations needed and the appropriate expert(s) needs to be consulted to identify if these changes are possible. If this is the case the community OT will usually advise and assist with the process. This will vary depending on if the property is rented or owned. There are strict guidelines as to what adaptations are funded. These can vary from area to area. General guidelines are available from The Scottish Government website (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/Housing/access/adaptations>). In the case of property which is rented from a housing association or local authority, the individual authorities will need to be consulted on their policies.

- The house cannot be reasonably adapted and re-housing is recommended. If this is the case the OT will assist with identifying your housing needs.
- The house is not suitable for adaptation for long term needs but with equipment can be used for visits or while awaiting re-housing.

Re-housing:

Options for re-housing will depend on your personal circumstances. Usually it will be either renting or purchasing a property.

When renting, for most people, the most appropriate options will be to rent from either a housing association or local authority. Occasionally, when few adaptations are required a private landlord can be considered.

When renting or purchasing, the occupational therapist can give you a housing needs report. You can use this as a guideline in identifying the points to consider when looking at a new property.

When any potential properties are identified, the occupational therapist should assess its suitability for your needs and identify potential adaptations and equipment needed.