

date: 12 Jan 2020, 21:08

**subject: Front garden containers/sheds for bike storage – please help!!**

Hi - I am emailing from Spokes to people who have contacted us in the past on the above topic, some of you quite a few years ago!

We are pleased to have been able to help some of you, though sadly not all, and we know there was a great deal of angst, frustration, costs and time-wasting for some of you.

The position in Edinburgh (but not elsewhere in Scotland) is now much clearer than it used to be, thanks to [our factsheet](#), which the Council has approved.

But - the government rules remain, so planning permission is needed even for a bike box or very small shed - meaning a fee of over £200 even if permission is then refused.

The government is now consulting on 'permitted development rights' (PDR) for a huge range of developments, including garden sheds and containers. PDR would mean that planning permission (and the fee) is no longer needed for containers/sheds meeting specified criteria (e.g. below a certain size).

Unfortunately the consultation report gives the impression that the government is minded not to grant PDR for such containers and small sheds. They seem to be only considering the visual issues, not the impact on families and individuals who wish to travel by bike. This is *despite* the government's supposed Climate Emergency which is meant to be considered in *all* policy decisions.

**PLEASE HELP!**

We would be really grateful if you would respond to the government consultation, which is here... <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/reviewing-and-extending-pdr/>

The consultation is pretty complex because it covers so many things - don't try reading the main document unless you really want to, it is 779 pages long!

**However, there are only 5 questions which are useful to answer, and we have given suggested answers in this circular to spokes members...**

<http://www.spokes.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2001-11-action-update.pdf>

See page 2 (section 5) of our circular.

Obviously feel free to adapt our wording if you wish.

Do also include a bit about your own experiences, where you think it fits and/or in Q5, which is a 'catch-all' question. This helps the Scottish government to see that real people are affected and that the present rules are making it harder for people use bike instead of car.

**We'd very much appreciate you letting us know if you do respond to the consultation.**

Finally, if you feel really strongly about this, you could *also* email your MSPs - tell them about the consultation (most won't know about it) and ask them to raise your concerns with the Planning and Transport Ministers.

**Thanks for reading and we hope your former bike storage problems are resolved. By responding to the consultation you can help prevent more people facing similar problems in the future.**

Yours from Spokes  
Dave du Feu