

Test of Reasonableness Board (TORB)

As per the Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act I of 2000 Cap. 413 of the Laws of Malta

31st January 2020

Our Ref: JanTORB_08

Ms. Sharon Magri
19,
Mosta Road
Attard ATD1437

PA/08057/19 – Rabat – Proposed change of use from existing residence to a guest house class 3A including minor alterations and extension at roof level.

On Friday 24th January 2020 the Test of Reasonableness Board (TORB) discussed a request for exemption on the above indicated permit application. Perit Silvia Nikolaeva Panayotova and Perit Mark Anthony Muscat were present on behalf of the applicant.

CRPD objected on the following non-conforming elements:

- Main entrance do not conform to AADG 2011 (All double leaf doors should have one leaf of a minimum of 900mm).
- Reception/ Breakfast counter height should conform to AADG 2011.
- No common accessible sanitary facilities have been provided.
- Accessible shower should be marked as flush.
- Backyard entrance do not conform to AADG 2011 (one leaf should be 900mm).

Exemption requested considering that the property is situated in an extremely sensitive area i.e being located in Rabat and facing Mdina, and appreciating the architectural character of the region which is why only minor alterations are being proposed.

Moreover, the site is a traditional townhouse forming part of a well preserved streetscape of similar houses. In fact, the adjacent property is a mirror image of the one in question and proposing changes to the existing configuration of the facade to accommodate a ramp would conflict overall appearance and contradict with SCH general guidelines.

It was also clarified that the backyard entrance will only be used for services and will not be open for the public.

Taking all arguments in consideration, the TORB concluded that it is **REASONABLE** to exempt* the main entrance from conforming to CRPD requirements on condition that a temporary ramp (with bell and signage) according to AADG 2011 is provided upon request. Ground floor should otherwise be accessible for all as according to AADG 2011 except from the common sanitary facility underneath the staircase.

**Exempted elements are marked in an 'X' in the tick boxes above.*



Mr. Joseph Bugeja
Vice-Chairperson
Test of Reasonableness Board