

# Aberdeenshire Council submission of 6 January 2023

## PE1955/D: Make the provision of public toilets a statutory duty

- **how many businesses and organisations are currently registered;**  
Eight businesses are currently signed up to the Comfort Partnership Agreement with Aberdeenshire Council.
- **what the annual cost of this scheme is and how this compares to maintaining local authority-run public toilets;**  
Aberdeenshire Council pays £2,000 per annum to businesses for agreeing to operate as a Comfort Partnership. The average running cost for any local authority run public toilet is around £12,000 per annum however the actual running costs very much vary from public toilet to public toilet dependant on use and location.
- **how widely advertised and understood the scheme is; and**  
The scheme is advertised on the Council's website however very much relies on word of mouth and the Council contacting business directly. Aberdeenshire Council is currently reviewing their Public Convenience Strategy which will include better promotion of Comfort Partnerships.
- **whether the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund could be used to broaden the scheme to more Local Authorities.**  
If the criteria of RTIF remains the same, only public toilets in areas with significant tourism pressures could be considered. Current RTIF criteria also requires that the Local Authority would need to retain/own the premise which would rule out using it for Comfort Partnerships.