

Table 1: Adaptation Pre-conditions

A. The named client should have a substantial and long term physical disability or sensory impairment.

A chronically sick and/or disabled person is **someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.**

For the purposes of defining eligibility for Disability Adaptation Grant (DAG):

- substantial means neither minor nor trivial;
- long term means that the effect of the impairment is likely to last for the rest of the person's life;
- normal day-to-day activities include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping;
- A normal day-to-day activity must affect one of the 'capacities' listed in the DDO which include mobility, manual dexterity, speech, hearing, seeing and memory.

While adverse effects must not be 'minor' or 'trivial' - the cumulative effects of a number of minor impairments can qualify as substantial.

For the purposes of grant the person for whom the adaptation is being provided, does not have to be formally registered but it must be clear from the information provided by the Association that the above definition applies.

It is important to note that temporary injuries such as a broken limb and for example, an otherwise able-bodied person with neck or back pain are not defined as disabilities for these purposes.

Associations must apply proper judgement to identify similar situations where a person may not meet the eligibility criteria.

B. Disability Adaptation Grant is available for structural items only.

As a rule, DAG is restricted to items which may be regarded as 'structural' because they are fixed to or become a permanent part of the structure of a dwelling. The 'structure' of a dwelling also includes the in-curtilage part of the dwelling such as gardens, private open spaces, any designated car-parking area, car-port or existing garage associated with the dwelling.

Such work can also include facilities to help carers provide essential help and assistance to the tenant – e.g., larger shower to allow for assisted showering.