



# **Statement of Compliance with Principles of Universal Design**

FRD\_XX\_XX\_RP\_JFA\_AR\_P7003

Mixed-Use Development at the Former Ford Distribution Site,  
Centre Park Road, Cork

Marina Quarter Ltd.  
October 2024



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## **0.0 Proposed Development**

The proposals comprise the construction of 176 no. 1, 2 and 3 bed apartment units in 2 no. blocks, 1 no. creche, 1 no. gym, a retail/café space and all associated ancillary development works.

## 1.0 Application of Part M to the Proposed Development

The proposed development scheme must meet the requirement of Part M of the Building Regulations. TGD Part M – Access and Use (2022) come into operation on the 1st January 2024 and subject to certain transitional arrangement the requirements of Part M 2022 must be followed, which the requirements are shown below:

### Part M - The Requirement

Part M of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations, (as amended), provides as follows:

<b>Access and Use</b>	<b>M1</b>	Adequate provision shall be made for people to access and use a building, its facilities and its environs.
	<b>M2</b>	Adequate provision shall be made for people to approach and access an extension to a building.
<b>Sanitary Facilities</b>	<b>M3</b>	If sanitary facilities are provided in a building that is to be extended, adequate sanitary facilities shall be provided for people within the extension.
<b>Changing Places Toilet</b>	<b>M4</b>	Where sanitary facilities are provided in a building, or in a building that is to be extended, adequate provision shall be made for people to access and use a changing places toilet, having regard to the use and size of the building.
<b>Non-Application of Part M</b>	<b>M5</b>	Part M does not apply to works in connection with extensions to and material alterations of existing dwellings, provided that such works do not create a new dwelling.

Figure 1- TGD Part M Access & Use (2022)

The Design Team for the proposed development at the Former Ford Distribution site, Centre Park Rd, Cork, recognise that since the introduction of the Disability Act in 2005, Irish Building Regulations have been revised with Universal Design in mind and the comprehensive technical guidance document known as the Building Regulations Technical Guidance Document M 2022 Access and Use (TGD Part M) is in place.

TGD Part M 2022 provides guidance in relation to meeting the requirements of Part M of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations and focuses on Access and Use. It is important to note that the introduction of TGD Part M 2022 states:

*“The materials, methods of construction, standards and other specifications (including technical specifications) which are referred to in this document are those which are likely to be suitable for the purposes of the Regulations.*

***Where works are carried out in accordance with the guidance in this document, this will, prima facie, indicate compliance with Part M of the Second Schedule to the Building Regulations (as amended). However, the adoption of an approach other than that outlined in the guidance is not precluded provided that the relevant requirements of the Regulations are complied with.***

*Those involved in the design and construction of a building may be required by the relevant building control authority to provide such evidence as is necessary to establish that the requirements of the Building Regulations are being complied with”.*

## 2.0 Design Team Approach to Access & Use Requirements

During the preparation of the design for the Former Ford Distribution site, the design team have worked to ensure that all requirements of Part M have been considered both internally and in the design of the approach and movement through the site. The preference has continually been to ensure universal access in the first instance and ensure equal access via alternative means where this is not possible due to existing site conditions.

The Design Team notes that TGD Part M 2022 demonstrates the minimum guidance to show compliance with the requirements of Part M of the Building Regulations. The Design Team is also firmly committed to achieving universal access in the buildings and the development as a whole and are committed to ensuring that all people, regardless of their age, size, disability or ability can enjoy equally the spaces that we design and build.

*Key examples to this approach are demonstrated below:*

- Access routes provided through and around the development are designed to meet the guidance in Sections 1.1 and 3.1 of TGD Part M 2022 where applicable.
- Accessible car parking spaces are provided at surface level and designed to meet the guidance in Section 1.1 TGD Part M 2022.
- Adequate access routes are provided from all associated car parking facilities to the main entrances of each building and vertical circulation cores of the Apartment blocks, designed in accordance with Section 1.1 of TGD Part M 2022 with 1800x1800mm level landings provided at all accessible entrances.
- All entrances to the apartment blocks and public facilities are designed in accordance with the guidance in Section 1.2 of TGD Part M 2022;
- Internal corridors, floor finishes and doors within communal areas will satisfy the relevant guidelines as set out in Section 1.3 of TGD Part M 2022;
- Passenger lifts and stairs provided in the cores are suitable for ambulant disabled people and serve all floors within the building. The lifts will be in accordance with the guidance in Section 1.3.4.2 of TGD Part M 2022 and the stairs in accordance with Section 1.3.4.3 of TGD Part M 2022;
- Apartments are designed to meet the guidance in Section 3 of TGD Part M 2022 including 1200mm by 1200mm level landing at apartment entrances and 800mm wide entrance doors.
- An accessible WC, suitable for visitors, is provided within each apartment. Each has been designed in accordance with Section 3.4 of TGD Part M 2022.
- All communal facilities within or surrounding apartment blocks are designed to be accessible to meet the needs of all users in accordance with guidance in TGD Part M 2022.
- Accessible sanitary facilities will be provided, where appropriate, in the café/retail unit, gym & creche and will be fitted out in accordance with Section 1.4.3.1 of TGD Part M 2022. Public WCs will be fit out in compliance with 1.4.3.2.
- All public convenience switches and sockets provided within the buildings will be adequately accessible and be in accordance with Section 1.5.7 of TGD Part M 2022.
- Signage, both external and internal to buildings, will be adequately accessible and designed in accordance with Section 1.6.3 of TGD Part M 2022 and Section 12 of BS8300-2:2018.

## **Principles of Universal Access for the Proposed Development**

### **EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT AND APPROACH**

We aim to provide independently accessible means of approach to the entrances and circulation to both the buildings and around the development, avoiding segregated routes as far as possible, in accordance with Section 1.1 of TGD Part M 2022.

### **INDEPENDENTLY ACCESSIBLE ENTRANCES**

We aim to create entrances to apartment blocks and public buildings that are independently accessible and avoid differentiation and segregation of disabled people, in accordance with Section 1.2 of TGD Part M 2022.

### **HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL CIRCULATION**

We aim to enable people to travel horizontally and vertically within the proposed buildings easily and without discomfort in order to make use of all relevant facilities, in accordance with Section 1.3 of TGD Part M 2022. (e.g. Internal doors, corridors, internal lobbies, passenger lifts, stairs, etc.)

### **SANITARY FACILITIES**

We aim to ensure that independently accessible sanitary facilities that meet the needs of people with a wide range of abilities are available in accordance with Section 1.4 of TGD Part M 2022.

(e.g. wheelchair accessible unisex WCs located in the café/retail unit, Changing Places WC in the Cultural facility.)

### **FACILITIES IN BUILDINGS**

We aim to ensure that all facilities within a building will be accessible and useable, and that all facilities will be designed and constructed to facilitate active participation where appropriate in accordance with Section 1.5 of TGD M 2022. (e.g. access control, switches, outlets and controls, etc.)

### **ADEQUATE AIDS TO COMMUNICATION**

We aim to provide adequate aids to communication within the common areas of apartment blocks and in public facilities as appropriate to ensure people can independently access and use the buildings and these facilities in accordance with Section 1.6 of TGD M 2022. (e.g. signage, visual contrast, lighting, audible aids, etc.)

### **DESIGN OF APARTMENTS**

We aim to ensure that all apartments within the development will be designed in accordance with Section 3 of TGD M 2022, and that they will provide adequate access for visitors, including accessible entrances with clear level landings, adequate circulation within the entrance storey, and visitable accessible WCs. We also aim to ensure that where provided UD Homes are designed in accordance with the provisions of the Universal Design Guidelines for Homes in Ireland.

## References:

1. DHLGH (2022) Building Regulation, 2022 Technical Guidance Document M. Access and Use. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dublin.
2. Access – improving the accessibility of Historic Buildings and Places published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.
3. Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004) – Chapter 18 – Improving Access.
4. BSI (2018), BS8300-1: Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Part 1: External environment – Code of practice.
5. BSI (2018), BS8300-2: Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment, Part 2: Buildings – Code of practice.
6. NDA (2002), Building for Everyone. The National Disability Authority, Dublin.
7. Centre for Excellence in Universal Design / The National Disability Authority, Dublin (2015), Universal Design Guidelines for Homes in Ireland.