



South Somerset District Council

Housing Standards

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*Alasdair Bell - Deputy Head of Service
Environmental Health & Community Protection*



2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
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Date:
Your Ref:
Our Ref: AB/LAC
Ask For: Mr A Bell
Direct Line: 01458 257440
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Dear *Mr McHendry*

RE: GILLIAN McCARTHY

Thank you for your recent letter concerning Gillian McCarthy to either the Chief Executive or Chairman of South Somerset District Council. Please accept my apologies for not replying specifically to the points raised in your letter but since an appeal was made via the internet for the public to write in and object to Gillian's eviction we have received numerous letters and 'e' mails and it is not possible to reply to them all individually.

South Somerset District Council, Somerset Social Services and Somerset Primary Care Trust with expert medical advice have been seeking for some considerable time to try and provide Gillian with suitable alternative accommodation. Gillian has complicated medical needs upon which I am unable to comment due to patient confidentiality. The welfare authorities however are aware of her needs and have planned suitable alternative accommodation designed to meet those needs. Gillian's new accommodation will be in the form of a specially adapted mobile home with all appropriate amenities in a quiet rural location.

Gillian is presently living in a dilapidated wooden chalet that is unfit for habitation and lacks adequate water, sewage or electricity supplies. Over the last ten years the Council has made numerous offers to re-house Gillian and/or to repair or improve her existing accommodation, including designing her a new home from scratch. All these offers have been turned down or objections have been raised that has made it impossible for any progress to be made. We have now arrived at a position where Gillian has to be moved for her own safety.

I can assure you that the Council has not undertaken this course of action lightly and is acting in Gillian's best interests. There is nothing that anyone involved in this case would rather see than Gillian being suitably re-housed. Whilst it is appreciated that this is a stressful time for Gillian, once she has moved it is hoped that she will be able to enjoy a quiet peaceful life.

Yours sincerely,

Alasdair Bell

Deputy Head of Service Environmental & Community Protection



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