

Automated Public Conveniences

proposed closure

Report

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Background

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea delivers a variety of toilet provision across the borough. Although these services are non-statutory, the Council understands the importance of providing toilet facilities. However, the Council also has an obligation to spend public money wisely and ensure value for money.

Of the facilities provided across the borough, some are provided via contractual arrangements with a supplier. These automated public conveniences (APC) come with hire and maintenance charges payable to the supplier.

A number of these APCs are not value for money and the Council is proposing that these units should be closed.

Having reviewed the cost per use of these APCs, three have been identified as not being value for money and the Council is proposing that these units should be closed.

- **Gloucester Road** – Outside Boots at 128 Gloucester Road, near the junction with Cromwell Road.
- **South Kensington** – Outside the south entrance/exit of South Kensington Tube Station in the open piazza area. Officially it is located on Old Brompton Road.
- **Sloane Square** – Opposite Sloane Square Tube Station, at the junction of Sloane Square and Holbein Place.

Consultation Methodology

The original review of toilet facilities was conducted before the Covid-19 pandemic. A subsequent review has been conducted post pandemic. The Council's Executive Management Team have taken the decision to close three APCs based on the review. The Council are seeking the views of residents and stakeholders on the proposed closures of the three APCs.

Report

A total of 10 surveys were returned by the deadline. This report contains data tables and comments detailing the responses to the survey questions. Percentage figures have been removed from the data tables in this document as these figures can be misleading due to the low number of responses.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank everyone that took the time to feedback their views.

Summary

- A total of ten out of ten respondents **live** in the borough
- A total of **two** out of ten respondents responded on **Gloucester Road APC**
- A total of **three** out of ten respondents responded on **South Kensington APC**
- A total of **five** out of ten respondents responded on **Sloane Square APC**
- A total of ten out of ten respondents **do not support** the APCs proposed closure

Do you support the proposal to close Gloucester Road public toilet?

Option	Total
Yes	0
No	2
Don't know	0
Not Answered	8

In the comment box below, please provide any views you have on the proposed closure of the Gloucester Road public toilet.

- *I think they are very useful when they're properly working, especially for older people.*
- *Very important with those with conditions such as Chron's disease or have given childbirth - or even morning sickness and need a private moment. Also, how one train a child to be potty trained when there are no public facilities?*

Do you support the proposal to close South Kensington public toilet?

Option	Total
Yes	0
No	3
Don't know	0
Not Answered	7

In the comment box below, please provide any views you have on the proposed closure of the South Kensington public toilet.

- *There are not nearly enough public toilets in the borough. They are a vital service for people with medical needs and who may feel embarrassed to go into a restaurant or pub. We also have a significant number of people living on the streets who otherwise have no choice but to urinate or worse on the street. If the cost is when used, I would*

think this a very good use of our council tax. Every time I've had occasion to use an automated loo I've had to wait, so clearly there is a need.

- Very important with those with conditions such as Chron's disease or have given childbirth - or even morning sickness and need a private moment. Also, how one train a child to be potty trained when there are no public facilities?*
- I think they are very useful when they're properly working, especially for older people.*

Do you support the proposal to close Sloane Square public toilet?

Option	Total
Yes	0
No	5
Don't know	0
Not Answered	5

In the comment box below, please provide any views you have on the proposed closure of the Sloane Square public toilet.

- Keep it until you have reconstituted the downstairs toilet facilities in the middle of Sloane Square. Remember, the costs of the current facilities assist local residents who have complained to me about people relieving themselves outside the entrance doors to their buildings.*
- There are no facilities accessible to the public in the vicinity, not even in the tube station. It cannot be right to delegate the provision of these services to private commercial enterprises.*
- It is usually out of order, that's why people aren't using it. I've tried to use it a few times on different occasions without any luck. I think they are very useful when they're properly working, especially for older people*
- Most times out of order. So, your calculation per usage is of course wrong. Do not remove it, as elder people and also passersby need it. We live in Chelsea and it's still useful. Thanks*
- Very important with those with conditions such as Chron's disease or have given childbirth - or even morning sickness and need a private moment. Also, how one train a child to be potty trained when there are no public facilities?*

About you

What is your postcode?

SW3 4JL
SW3 2ST
SW7 2TD
SW10 0TU
SW10 0TU
SW7 5LT
SW6
SW3
SW3 5SH
SW3 4JL

What is your sex?

Option	Total
Male	6
Female	4

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Option	Total
Yes	9
Not answered	1

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Option	Total
Straight/Heterosexual	8
Not answered	2

How do you describe your ethnic origin?

Option	Total
White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	6
White - Other European	2
Any other White background – Spain white	1
Other ethnic group - Moroccan Arab	1

What is your religion or belief?

Option	Total
Christian	5
No religion or belief	3
Prefer not to state	1
Not answered	1

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

Option	Total
Yes	1
No	8
Not Answered	1

If yes, what is the nature of your physical or mental health condition or illness?

Option	Total
I am an older person	1
Prefer not to say	2
Not Answered	7