

BS 6465-4:2010



BSI Standards Publication

# Sanitary installations

Part 4: Code of practice for the provision of public toilets

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## Foreword

### Publishing information

This part of BS 6465 is published by BSI and came into effect on 30 November 2010. It was prepared by Panel B/209/-/2, *Draft BS 6465-4*, under the authority of Technical Committee B/209, *General building codes*.

### Relationship with other publications

BS 6465 is published in four parts as follows:

- *Part 1: Code of practice for the design of sanitary facilities and scales of provision of sanitary and associated appliances;*
- *Part 2: Code of practice for space requirements for sanitary appliances;*
- *Part 3: Code of practice for the selection, installation and maintenance of sanitary and associated appliances;*
- *Part 4: Code of practice for the provision of public toilets.*

Part 1 gives recommendations for the design of sanitary facilities and for the scale of provision of sanitary and associated appliances in buildings, and for portable toilets.

Part 2 gives recommendations on the space requirements around all sanitary appliances to ensure convenience in use and to facilitate maintenance and cleaning.

Part 3 gives recommendations on the selection, installation and maintenance of various types of sanitary and associated appliances.

### Use of this document

As a code of practice, this part of BS 6465 takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification and particular care should be taken to ensure that claims of compliance are not misleading.

Any user claiming compliance with this part of BS 6465 is expected to be able to justify any course of action that deviates from its recommendations.

### Presentational conventions

The provisions in this standard are presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Its recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is "should".

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

### Contractual and legal considerations

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**



## Introduction

Research and feedback from community groups has shown that public toilet provision is essential in creating accessible and sustainable cities, and meeting the needs of commuters, tourists, visitors, and residents. To meet these needs, and those of people in towns, villages and rural areas, it is essential that there are adequate numbers of public toilets and that they are in the correct locations, accessible, well designed and suitable for user needs.

From the environmental viewpoint, public toilets are often the missing link in creating sustainable cities, as people are more likely to leave their cars at home and travel on public transport, on foot, or by bicycle if they know that public toilets are readily available within walking distance of their destination.

From the social point of view, public toilet provision benefits all sectors of society, men and women, disabled people, older people, families and children.

From the economic point of view, public toilet provision, rather than being a burden on resources, can encourage people to visit a location, stay longer and spend more money in the area.

This part of BS 6465 provides recommendations and guidance intended for those responsible for the surveying, assessing, planning, commissioning, designing, managing and use of public toilets. The recommendations and guidance in this standard are intended to cover public toilet provision for the full range of users and in all locations including towns and cities, rural areas and villages and in relation to main transport routes and termini.

The recommendations in this part of BS 6465 are applicable to new public toilet installations. They are also applicable to the upgrading of existing public toilets. However, it is accepted that it might not be possible to upgrade existing toilets to be in accordance with all the recommendations in this standard, for example for physical or economic reasons. It is important to note that it is not intended that any public toilet be closed just because it is not entirely in accordance with this standard, as any public toilet provision is considered to be better than none.

# Section 1: General

## 1 Scope

This part of BS 6465 gives recommendations on the location, numbers, siting, design and management of public toilets. It is applicable to the provision of new facilities and to the retention and refurbishment of existing facilities.

This standard is applicable to the following types of public toilet facilities:

- a) municipal public on-street toilets;
- b) off-street publicly available toilets (e.g. in shopping malls);
- c) automatic public conveniences (APCs);
- d) street urinals;
- e) facilities for disabled people, from the point of view of scale of provision and location;
- f) baby changing and ancillary toilet facilities.

This part of BS 6465 is not applicable to the following:

- 1) toilet facilities in buildings open to the public such as theatres, libraries, hospitals and hotels, (see BS 6465-1 for these), unless the toilets in these buildings are made available to the general public as off-street publicly available toilets as part of an overall public toilet availability strategy;
- 2) sanitary provision on vehicles, such as aeroplanes, trains and coaches (although it is applicable to public toilets in transport termini and interchanges);
- 3) detailed space requirements in public toilet facilities (see BS 6465-2);
- 4) the selection and installation of appliances and fittings (see BS 6465-3).

This part of BS 6465 does not give detailed recommendations for the layout of, and fixtures and fittings in, accessible toilet facilities. This standard does give recommendations for the provision of accessible toilets and Changing Places toilet facilities from the point of view of scale of provision and location. For detailed layout it is essential for the user to consult BS 8300. References to BS 8300 are given for particular items where these are covered in the present standard with respect to public toilets in particular, however this is not a substitute for following the provisions of BS 8300 with respect to accessible toilets and Changing Places toilet facilities.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

BS 6465-1, *Sanitary installations – Part 1: Code of practice for the design of sanitary facilities and scales of provision of sanitary and associated appliances*

BS 6465-2, *Sanitary installations – Part 2: Code of practice for space requirements for sanitary appliances*

BS 6465-3:2006, *Sanitary installations – Part 3: Code of practice for the selection, installation and maintenance of sanitary and associated appliances*

BS 7958, *Closed circuit television (CCTV) – Management and operation – Code of practice*

BS 8300, *Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people – Code of practice*

BS EN 1036-1, *Glass in building – Mirrors from silver-coated float glass for internal use – Part 1: Definitions, requirements and test methods*

BS EN 1036-2, *Glass in building – Mirrors from silver-coated float glass for internal use – Part 2: Evaluation of product conformity; product standard*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this part of BS 6465 the following terms and definitions apply.

#### 3.1 24-hour toilet

toilet facilities that are available at any time of day

#### 3.2 accessible toilet

toilet designed for wheelchair users, or for ambulant disabled users

*NOTE* Ambulant disabled users include people who are blind or partially sighted and people with invisible disabilities such as arthritis, colostomies and incontinence.

#### 3.3 activity space

area needed, in addition to the appliance space (see 3.4), for the user to carry out the activity normally associated with the appliance and to enable the provider to undertake cleaning and maintenance

#### 3.4 appliance space

area required for a sanitary appliance and, where applicable, any associated pipework and fittings

#### 3.5 Authority

provider responsible for the public toilet strategy and provision of public toilets in an area

*NOTE* This will normally be the Local Authority, but may be another provider.

#### 3.6 automatic public convenience

##### APC

stand alone public toilet with WC and washbasin that cleans automatically after use

*NOTE* These are sometimes known as “automatic public toilets” (APTs).

#### 3.7 Changing Places toilet

toilet designed for use by people with severe disabilities who require the help of up to two assistants

*NOTE* The space is fitted with a changing bench and fixed tracked hoist system so that assistants can fit the user's slings to the hoist and move the person to the various items in the facility.

- 3.8 circulation space**  
area free of obstructions required for the user to gain access to an appliance without interference to users of other appliances
- 3.9 community toilet**  
toilet facilities in business premises made available to non-customers through an agreement between a Local Authority and the business owners
- 3.10 customer toilet**  
toilet on private property provided solely for the use of customers visiting the property
- 3.11 family toilet**  
toilet containing a WC, washbasin and baby changing facilities, that can be used by parents with young children and babies
- 3.12 portable toilet**  
movable structure containing sanitary appliances, either temporarily connected to drainage and/or water supply systems, or with self-contained supply and waste collection systems
- 3.13 public toilet**  
toilet for use by the public in a public area which can be on or off-street, and which is usually provided and maintained by a Local Authority or other corporate body
- 3.14 publicly available toilet**  
off-street toilet on private property to which the general public (other than customers) may have access ( e.g. in a shopping mall)
- 3.15 sanitary appliance**  
fixed appliance, normally connected to a water supply and to a drain, used for the provision of water, or for cleaning, or for wastewater disposal
- NOTE Sanitary appliances include WCs, urinals and washbasins. They also include appliances that are not connected to a water supply or a drain, for example waterless urinals.*
- 3.16 self-contained toilet**  
ventilated toilet compartment which contains one WC and washbasin
- 3.17 squat toilet**  
WC pan set into the floor which can be used as a urinal or which the user squats down to use
- 3.18 street urinal**  
structure containing urinals provided in a public place
- 3.19 sunpipe**  
pipe lined with light reflecting material which is used to transmit daylight from the outside of a building to the inside
- 3.20 toilet**  
room in which a WC or WCs are installed and which is used solely for excretory purposes and associated washing
- 3.21 unisex toilet**  
toilet that can be used by either sex
- 3.22 urinal**  
sanitary appliance used by men for the reception and disposal of urine

- 3.23 **washbasin**  
basin for washing hands
- 3.24 **waterless urinal**  
urinal that is not connected to a water supply
- 3.25 **WC (water closet)**  
pan receptacle for faecal matter, urine and toilet paper plus any associated flushing device, plumbing and fittings

## Section 2: Public toilet strategy

### COMMENTARY ON SECTION 2

*It is very important that public toilet provision is seen as a strategic, high-level urban spatial policy, as part of the normal work of city planning departments, and as a key component alongside other economic, social and urban design considerations. It is important that those administering public toilet provision have effective communication with strategy policy departments, and are well acquainted with user needs and with higher level government policy. Although public toilet provision is declining, demand from the general public remains high, and government policy has endorsed their importance.*

**NOTE** See Improving access to better quality toilets – A strategic guide CLG, 2008 [1].

## 4 Strategy contents

A public toilet strategy should include the following.

a) *Identification of the Authority in charge of the strategy.*

This will be needed where two or more Authorities might overlap in an area.

b) *Identification of the department within the Authority in charge of the strategy.*

It should be determined which department within the Authority is in charge of the strategy, and which other departments and outside agencies need to be involved in determining and implementing the strategy (see Clause 5).

c) *Consultation with relevant parties.*

Consultation should be carried out before determining the strategy (see Clause 5).

d) *A survey of existing facilities.*

A survey of current provision should be undertaken. The current toilet situation in the area should be recorded on maps, and survey data retained for future reference and updating (see Clause 6).

e) *A survey of users and their needs.*

See Clause 7.

f) *A spatial strategy.*

A strategy should be drawn up to show where toilets are needed, and the number and level of facilities required (see Clause 8).

g) *Identification of deficiencies.*

Following surveys of users and existing facilities, it should be determined where toilet provision is non-existent, or inadequate, in terms of numbers, range or quality of facilities.

h) *Determination of types of facilities to be provided.*

There are different types of toilets and methods of provision (see Clause 9).

i) *Identification of priorities for upgrading.*

The Authority should then determine priorities for upgrading provision as necessary (see 8.6). A policy and timescale for upgrading should be produced.

j) *A financial planning and charging policy.*

Financial planning and charging policies are outside the scope of this standard, except in as far as they involve access and accommodation requirements (see **19.2.3** and **19.4.2**).

*NOTE The Public Health Act 1936 [2] prohibited Local Authorities from charging for the use of urinals. This restriction was removed by Section 22 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Amendment) Regulations 2007 [3], and Local Authorities can now charge for both WC and urinal use.*

k) *A management policy.*

Toilets will need attendance, cleaning and maintenance (see Section 5).

l) *User information.*

Overall public toilet provision in the whole Authority area should be included in one place on the Authority's website for use by the public. This should include a map showing where public toilets (and other toilets available for use by the public) are situated, the facilities available, and nearby parking if necessary. This information should also be held in council offices, tourist information centres, etc. Ideally paper copies should also be available for the public.

Local area signboards and paper maps may also be produced, showing toilet provision (and possibly other facilities) in more detail. This is particularly suitable for busy areas, and those areas frequented by visitors.

Brief information about toilet availability should be given on road signs on major roads coming into towns and cities or areas of population or of special interest to visitors.

m) *Regular review and updating of the strategy.*

The strategy should be reviewed at least annually to record progress.

Overall strategies should be reviewed and updated at least at five yearly intervals to take account of new developments, population changes, toilet closures, etc.

## 5 Liaison and exchange of information

**5.1** The scale of provision of public toilets, and their location, should always be determined in consultation with the local planning authority, toilet user groups, local businesses and developers, and police, and with transport providers in the area in question.

**5.2** In order to do this, a database should be established giving details of all transport operators, health and disability groups, businesses and national interest groups that have a role to play in public toilet provision.

**5.3** Liaison should also be established with other governmental and Local Authority departments whose work has a bearing on toilet provision and relevant policies of these bodies should be identified, in particular town and country planning, public health, licensing, transportation planning, police and social services.

**5.4** Strong links should also be established between all public and private sector providers of public toilets in the area in question, including retail, car parking, sport and leisure organizations.

**5.5** Throughout the development of the toilet strategy for the area in question, and as an ongoing process in respect of toilet management, all these organizations and groups should be kept informed of progress, public participation should be encouraged, and significant toilet provision proposals should be put out to consultation in the same way as any other major spatial planning policy.

**5.6** It can also be of value to consult manufacturers on product availability and technological developments.

**5.7** Current toilet provision maps (with upgrading priorities shown as necessary) should be available to all departments of the Authority for reference.

## 6 Survey of existing toilet provision

**6.1** In order to maximize the effectiveness of toilet provision (for good toilet provision can be wasted in a poor location), and to develop a toilet strategy and hierarchy of provision, the Authority should first undertake a survey to ascertain what is already available in terms of current levels of provision. This should include their appropriateness to user needs, footfall and transport routes.

**6.2** The following information should be recorded.

- a) Number of existing facilities, including:
  - 1) toilet blocks;
  - 2) sanitary appliances for men (WCs and urinals), and sanitary appliances for women (WCs), in each block;
  - 3) accessible toilets;
  - 4) adult and child changing facilities (including Changing Places toilets);
  - 5) baby changing facilities;
  - 6) street urinals;
  - 7) APCs;
  - 8) squat toilets.
- b) Accessibility, including:
  - 1) opening hours, both daily and seasonal;
  - 2) location, including distance from users, visibility, signage and environmental factors that might affect use, such as toilets in particularly vulnerable locations in terms of crime and vandalism;
  - 3) physical factors, including steps, underground toilets, pushchair access, circulation space and cubicle size;  
*NOTE 1 People are taller and heavier than they were in the past, and the adequacy of cubicle sizes, also the heights and strengths of fixtures and fittings, should be considered as necessary.*
  - 4) availability of nearby parking, including facilities for disabled people and for bicycles.
- c) Features, both positive and negative, which can influence use, e.g. vandalism, disrepair, privacy, safety, cleanliness, and facilities for securing dogs and bicycles.

- d) Facilities, including rooms for attendants, cleaning facilities, and other sanitary and associated appliances in the toilet block including washbasins, sanitary disposal units, mirrors and coat hooks.
- e) Users, including the numbers of men, women, children, babies and disabled people, likely to use the facilities.
- f) Usage and length of queues, including any daily, weekly or seasonal changes in numbers of users (especially important in tourist areas).

*NOTE 2 CCTV and electronic people counters can be helpful in determining numbers using the facility, but might not reflect demand.*

*NOTE 3 The views of users are also of importance (see Clause 7).*

**6.3** In areas where toilets have been closed, if possible data should also be gathered on previous levels of provision, where public toilets were previously located and when they were closed. It should be determined whether the closures were because of lack of funding, lack of demand, or social problems (e.g. vandalism, drug use or other antisocial behaviour) and whether the previous pattern might provide a good starting point for restoring public toilet provision to areas where it is still needed.

**6.4** Data on all toilet providers should be collected, especially in areas where the Authority is not the main public toilet provider, so that there is clear information on who is providing toilets for use by the public, and where.

**6.5** A map should be produced showing the distribution and location of all public toilets across the administrative area in question, with a key showing the different sorts of public toilet available. If a map already exists, this should be checked and updated if necessary.

**6.6** Liaison should be established with Local Authorities in adjacent areas to facilitate seamless provision of public toilets across administrative boundaries.

**6.7** If an Authority has a centralised GIS (geographic information system) the data collected on public toilet location, distribution and types of facilities should be uploaded onto this system so that all departments can access this information.

## 7 Identifying user groups and user needs

### COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 7

*Toilet users and toilet providers can have very different perspectives on public toilet provision. Therefore it is very important to identify all the different user groups so that their views can be taken into account. This is particularly important at the local level.*

*NOTE On average within the UK population, around 18% are disabled people, 40% do not have driving licences, 10% are members of an ethnic minority community, nearly 40% are over the retirement age and 52% are female. These figures will vary according to location, for example seaside towns might have much higher proportions of older people, and some urban areas, for example London, have much higher levels of ethnic minority communities.*

**7.1** Qualitative data should also be collected on types of users and their particular needs. A database of user groups representing different users should be compiled so that they can be engaged in public participation and consultation on toilet provision policies (see Clause 5). Different user types to be taken into account should include

women and men, members of ethnic minority communities, religious groups, disabled people, older people, and those responsible for babies and young children.

**7.2** The user types should include both people resident in the area in question, and people coming into the area from elsewhere such as tourists, visitors, commuters and other workers.

*NOTE 1 The number of non-resident users varies according to location. For example, in central London non-resident groups comprise the majority of public toilet users.*

*NOTE 2 Other workers include people who are mobile workers, for example traffic wardens, police officers, delivery staff and bus drivers. These people particularly need toilet facilities in the areas where they are working, which might include suburban areas (see 8.2).*

**7.3** It is extremely important that women's as well as men's toilet needs, experiences and requirements are taken into account fully (see 10.1).

*NOTE Examples of how to mainstream gender considerations into policy making are given in the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Gender mainstreaming toolkit [4] and Planning advice note PAN 7 [5].*

**7.4** Users should be asked for their opinions on the number and positioning of toilets, facilities within the toilets and cleaning, maintenance and security issues.

**7.5** All complaints, comments and suggestions received from the general public regarding public toilet provision in the area in question should be logged and collated, and key issues that are frequently raised should be highlighted and fed into the policy making process.

*NOTE It is important that this is done even-handedly without prejudgements being made and that no issue raised is discounted.*

**7.6** Determining the numbers of people using existing toilets will be helpful in determining required provision. See 11.2.2 for further information.

## 8 Public toilet spatial strategy

### 8.1 General

**8.1.1** Having undertaken the survey of the existing overall toilet situation (see Clause 5 and Clause 6), the Authority should then develop a strategy for public toilet provision in their area in accordance with the hierarchy of centres and key locations as given in this clause, so that provision is appropriate, but not excessive, and suitable for the area in question.

**8.1.2** The importance of the spatial strategy is to ensure that there are adequate toilet facilities throughout the whole area, rather than just at a few major locations. However, the scale of provision will need to be greatest in the busiest areas, and recommendations for the three levels of the toilet hierarchy given in 8.3.2, 8.3.3 and 8.3.4 should be followed, as applicable.

**8.1.3** In order to develop an effective toilet strategy with adequate provision, distribution and coverage at all levels and localities within the area in question, Authorities should firstly identify those areas where toilet provision is needed.

## 8.2 Identification of areas needing public toilet provision

**8.2.1** The provision of public toilets should be determined according to local need. An assessment of need should be made of areas such as:

- a) city and town centres;
- b) public transport interchanges and termini;
- c) car parks and park and ride facilities;
- d) tourist attractions and resort areas;
- e) parks, allotments, cemeteries;
- f) sports grounds;
- g) shopping centres and market places;
- h) suburban areas and villages, where toilet facilities might be needed by mobile workers;
- i) beaches;
- j) cycle paths;
- k) rural footpaths;
- l) occasionally used areas, e.g. fairgrounds.

**8.2.2** This list is not exhaustive, and toilet need should be considered anywhere people are likely to congregate. Toilet provision should also be considered for people in transit, e.g. on trunk roads, and busy thoroughfares in towns and cities. Where toilets are intended for use by motorists, nearby parking facilities should be available.

**8.2.3** Even in less busy places, people should be able to access public toilets where other toilet facilities will not be available to them. Although priority should be given to providing toilets in the areas listed in **8.6**, an assessment should also be made of need for public toilets in less busy areas. Examples of different areas are shown in **8.3.2**, **8.3.3** and **8.3.4**, but the scale of provision should be judged on usage rather than location, for example, some parks will come into the medium use category and some into the low use category.

*NOTE* Railway stations and central area car parks, for example, are likely to be the main gateways to a city for large numbers of commuters, tourists, shoppers and other visitors and so a high level of public toilet provision is needed. However, local area toilets can be important to significant numbers of residents. For example, many older people might take a bus to their local shopping centre and need a toilet there, even though they might not have travelled very far, because of the infrequency of bus services and because of the urinary problems that can be associated with old age.

## 8.3 Hierarchy of toilet locations

### 8.3.1 General

Once the areas needing toilets have been identified, a hierarchy based on usage should be determined. Usage, and hence facilities provided, should be based on numbers, type of users, pattern of use, etc.

### 8.3.2 Heavy use areas

**8.3.2.1** Examples of heavy use areas are city centres, major transport termini and major tourist areas.

**8.3.2.2** Large centres should have the highest level of toilet provision, with attendants if possible, and the widest range of facilities, including facilities such as accessible toilets and baby changing areas, and possibly shower facilities. A Changing Places toilet for severely disabled people should also be included. (See BS 8300 for additional suggested locations.)

**8.3.2.3** The Authority should take into account off-street toilets that are provided in association with retail premises such as shopping malls, and community toilets. However, it should be checked whether the opening and closing times of these toilets are appropriate to local demand and activity patterns, and ensured that alternative on-street provision is available at other times. There should always be toilets available that people can access without having to enter private premises.

**8.3.2.4** In city centres, fully operational 24-hour toilet facilities should be available to provide for the day-time shoppers, night-time drinkers, shift workers, commuters, etc. going through the centre at all times. Where it is not feasible to keep all main facilities open for 24 hours, these can be supplemented by APCs if necessary, but adequate facilities at reasonable distances apart should always be available.

**8.3.2.5** In town and city centres and tourist areas, toilets should be within a short walking distance, and should ideally be at 300 m centres in the busiest areas, and at 500 m centres generally in town centres.

### **8.3.3 Medium use areas**

**8.3.3.1** Examples of medium use areas are small town centres, suburban shopping centres, busy public transport termini, major car parks, large public parks, beaches, sports grounds and leisure areas.

**8.3.3.2** District centres and specific areas of activity should have a level of toilet provision appropriate to the size and likely usage of the areas. This might necessitate 24-hour toilets. Accessible toilet facilities and baby changing facilities should be available.

**8.3.3.3** Spacing should depend on intensity of use.

### **8.3.4 Low use areas**

**8.3.4.1** Examples of low use areas are local shopping centres with neighbourhood and passing-through catchment, and more dispersed and remote locations, including villages and hamlets, locations served by rural transport networks, allotments, out of town office developments and industrial and retail parks.

**8.3.4.2** The needs of small local centres should be served on a more modest scale. Public toilets should also be available to serve the dispersed residential suburban areas that surround local centres, some of which have substantial populations. Where there are no identifiable centres in large residential areas, toilets should be made available near major road junctions or by busy bus stops.

**8.3.4.3** At more remote locations, for example villages, wayside lay-bys and beauty spots, at least minimum facilities should be provided, such as an APC (if services are available). These should be suitable for disabled people and contain a baby changing facility.

**8.3.4.4** It is recommended that at least one toilet facility should be provided in every settlement with a population over 5 000.

**8.3.4.5** However, toilet providers should make sure, through their initial survey and investigations (see Clause 6 and Clause 7) that they do not underestimate the necessary provision, because there might be days, or times, at which use is greatly intensified, for example when a weekly market takes place.

**8.3.4.6** Only in locations where there is very occasional use, or there is a “one off”, infrequent, or sudden rise in toilet demand should portable toilets be used e.g. fairgrounds and festivals.

**8.3.4.7** Public toilets should be made available in parks, playing fields, allotments and similar areas where private facilities do not exist. In some cases these can be combined with changing rooms, visitor centres, cafe and car park facilities.

**8.3.4.8** Public toilets should be provided at out-of-town and decentralized employment locations. At least one toilet should be provided on the main road approach to out-of-town business parks, possibly with a short term lay by.

## 8.4 Toilets for motorists

**8.4.1** Toilet facilities should generally be available 28 miles (or 30 minutes driving) apart on motorways, and 14 miles (or 30 minutes driving) apart on main trunk roads. This is to enable HGV (heavy goods vehicle) drivers in particular to take the regular breaks required by law. Full details of the requirements for toilets and rest areas on major roads are included in *Policy for service areas and other roadside facilities on motorways and all-purpose trunk roads in England* (Department for Transport 2008) [6].

**8.4.2** Toilet facilities on main roads do not have to be exclusively for motorists, but they should be close to the main road, well signposted, and have parking facilities nearby. Toilets in less busy locations should be clearly visible from the road, and be well lit, both for identification by motorists, and for surveillance which can reduce antisocial behaviour. Individual direct access self-contained toilets which open directly to the footpath can also be used if necessary to reduce fear of antisocial behaviour.

## 8.5 Remote locations

**8.5.1** The need for public toilet provision in remote areas should not be overlooked. These include public footpaths and cycle paths, beauty spots and picnic areas. On walking and cycling paths, toilets should ideally be no more than 30 minutes walk (1.5 miles) or 30 minutes cycle ride (5 miles) apart. Where plumbing facilities are not practicable, portable toilets or waterless toilets should be considered.

**8.5.2** The recommendations in **8.4.2** on surveillance might also apply to these areas.

## 8.6 Priority of provision

**8.6.1** It might not be possible to provide adequate toilets immediately in all necessary locations. It is therefore recommended that where people will not be using customer or publicly available toilets, priority should be given to providing public toilets in areas where:

- a) people are likely to remain for an hour or more;
- b) people embark on, or disembark from, a journey lasting an hour or more;
- c) takeaway food and drink are consumed out of doors.

**8.6.2** In these areas, the general public should not have to depend on customer toilets where a purchase might be necessary to use the facilities, e.g. licensed premises and cafes.

## 8.7 Future provision

The Authority should determine planning policy applicable to new developments so that public toilet needs are always considered.

*NOTE Town Planning consents can incorporate agreements made under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 [7] which could include the provision of public toilets to be incorporated into a scheme by developers.*

# 9 Types of toilet provision

The different types of public toilet provision and the advantages and disadvantages of each are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Types of public toilet provision

| Type                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Advantages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Disadvantages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Toilet blocks</b><br>These are the traditional solution. They consist of a building, or a facility within a building, provided to contain more than one toilet and associated facilities. The men's generally include WCs, washbasins and urinals; the women's WCs and washbasins. | Most useful form of provision for busy areas.<br>Can incorporate attendant's room, cleaning facilities, baby change, accessible toilets etc.<br>Freely available to everyone; no vetting of users.<br>Can incorporate advertising and vending machines to generate revenue. | Most expensive to provide and maintain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Automatic public conveniences (APCs)</b><br>These are individual stand alone toilets with hand washing facilities, which are accessed by coins, and the whole compartment is washed after use.                                                                                     | Relatively easy to site.<br>Economic way of providing public toilets in lower use areas.<br>Unisex, so only one toilet is needed.<br>Can incorporate facilities for disabled people and baby changing.<br>24-hour availability.                                             | Not suitable for areas of heavy use.<br>Some people might be frightened to use them.<br>In spite of the fact that they are automatic they need regular servicing in the same way as other toilet facilities.<br>Any malfunction is likely to put the facility totally out of use. |