

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

27 JUNE 2024

DEPUTATION REQUESTS

Subject	Deputation
3.1 In respect of Item 8.11 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Faccenda – Cables Wynd House	Cables Wynd Residents Group (written submission attached)
3.2 In respect of Item 8.16 on the agenda – Motion by Councillor Younie – Dalmeny Primary School	Dalmeny Primary School Parent Forum

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Papers for Cables Wynd House lifts deputation in support of Cllr Katrina Faccenda's motion: Thursday 27th June, 10am.



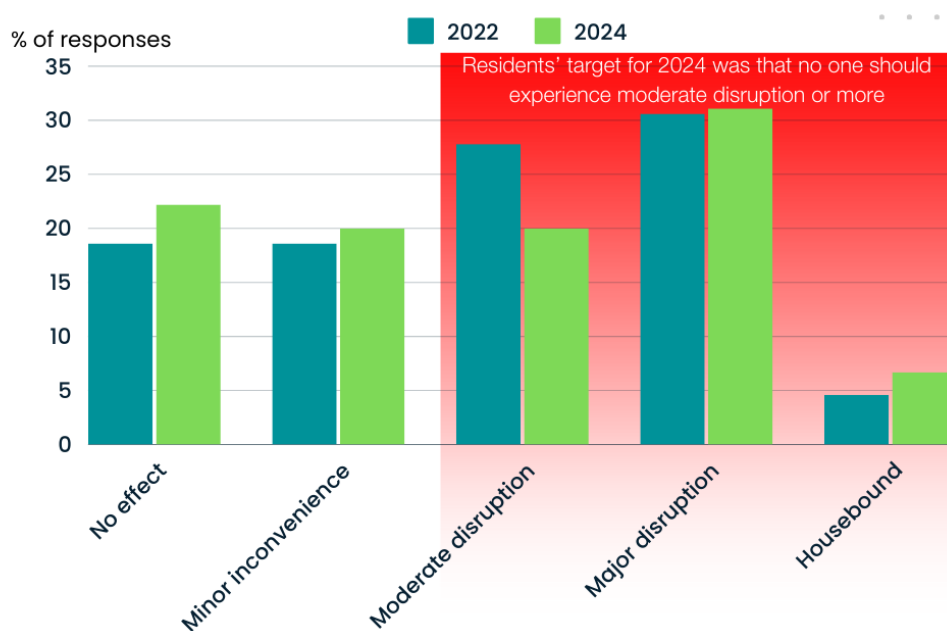
Cables Wynd House is a large, majority council owned high-rise building in Leith, with 212 flats. Tenants access their flats through galleries on the 2nd, 5th and 8th floors. There are a high number of families with young children, disabled tenants, children with additional support needs such as autism, and people with long term health problems who live on the higher floors. Therefore, lifts are not a luxury. Many tenants cannot simply take the stairs, making reliable lifts an absolutely essential service that enables people to enter and leave their homes.

In 2022, City of Edinburgh Council announced an ambitious retrofit for the building, which will hopefully address issues such as damp and mould, that tenants see as one of their biggest problems. However, despite speaking to council employees and elected members at every meeting of the Cables Wynd Community forum for the past two years, tenants have yet to receive assurance that lifts upgrades or replacements will be included in the building work.

Lifts are a priority for residents

A group of residents in the building, supported by Community development workers from Inspiring Leith, have done an ambitious piece of Participative Action Research over the past two years. This research has reached significantly more residents than any recent research done by City of Edinburgh Council, Collective Architecture and academics, with more than a 25% response rate. This research was designed and carried out by residents, who based many of the questions on what they already suspected were big issues, based on informal conversations with their neighbours. A full report on this research will be published later this year. However, extracts from the research, as well as an additional door knocking exercise carried out by a member of the group prior to a specific meeting about lifts, shed light on the strength of feeling about this issue.

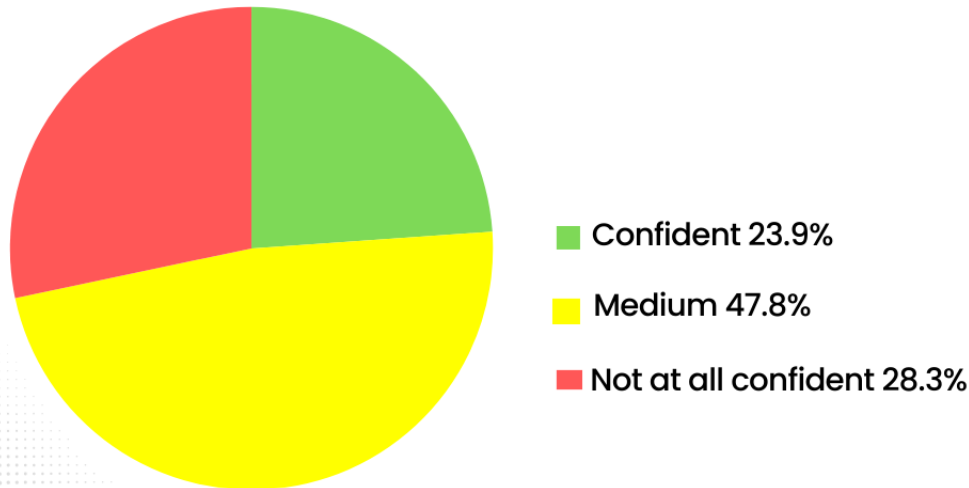
IN THE LAST YEAR, HOW MUCH HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE LIFTS AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?



In 2022, residents analysed the data and shared a target with CEC that no one's lives should be moderately disrupted or more because of the lifts in the building. However, when we asked again in 2024, 58% of people still felt the lifts had disrupted their lives moderately or more.

2024: HOW CONFIDENT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT USING THE LIFTS NOW?

37 responses



It is concerning that more than a quarter of people feel 'not at all confident' about using the lifts, especially when many people rely on the lifts, simply to get in and out of the building.

Why do people not trust the lifts?

Over the past two years we have heard many stories of people getting stuck in lifts, some people more than once. Some members of this group have also been stuck. On one recent occasion the alarm call did not work so the person had to shout loudly until she was heard by a passer-by who had to jam the doors open to get her out. Currently one of the four lifts is out of order. Others periodically shake, do not stop at the correct floors, or arrive when called. Lifts in the central foyer are used much more often than those at the parliament street end, because these are the sensible route to many local shops, schools, libraries and transport links. One of these lifts has been out of order for over a month.

What do residents need?

Residents are asking for the lifts to be replaced, because functioning, trustworthy lifts are vital to their ability to live their lives. We also need more help and support from the City of Edinburgh Council as a landlord and Human Rights Duty Bearer: to offer more action and assurance that residents will be listened to when they try to participate in decisions that affect them. We should not be required to do hours of voluntary work in order to receive a basic functioning service such as a lift in a high rise building.

Today you will hear directly from a number of residents who have done hours of careful and committed research and work to represent others in their community who cannot attend meetings due to health conditions or work commitments. Thank you for your time.