

PUBLIC QUESTION NO.2 – ACCESS TO FULHAM POOLS

Question by: Monica Williams

To: The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Residents Services

I, along with other residents, am a regular user of Fulham Pools, often choosing to use the Gala Pool in the early morning. As a disabled senior citizen it is sad that on these cold winters' mornings after bus journeys to the pool, we are knowingly left outside in the freezing cold, until the official opening time. At our age, this does nothing to improve our health and well-being.

We have politely asked Virgin staff members on many occasions that we be allowed to shelter in the "wind lobby" until the official opening hour, but are always told NO. We can understand that entering into the main building may contravene health and safety regulations, and perhaps there are problem with insurance; but there is nothing in the "wind lobby" whatsoever which can hurt us or be damaged by us, other than one single light switch.

We feel and are all convinced this is part of us being treated as '2nd Class citizens', as we use the public Gala pool rather than paying for Virgin membership. Surely "rules are for the guidance of wise men and the obedience of fools"?

Can the Council please tell us why they cannot ask Virgin to allow residents to use their 'wind lobby' for the relatively short time from when they arrive early until entry to the pools is permitted?