

Gardens

The rear garden must be easy to maintain. This should be assessed in relation to the intended occupants and will consider issues such as:

- poor design
- space constraints
- steep topography

The rear garden must be reasonably private. For example:

- Landlords must ensure gardens have proper/secure boundaries.

Secured by Design guidance advises that easy access to the back and sides of the dwelling can be prevented by the provision of locked gates. The use of post and wire fences, low level shrubs or walls is not considered suitable. Trellis topping also makes climbing difficult and will add security.

The rear garden must be safe and suitable for young children to play in. This also includes allowing supervision from the dwelling. Issues that may be considered in relation to this element are:

- boundaries should be suitable to prevent children leaving the garden and should not encourage climbing
- if the garden is on an incline, the landlord must ensure that the retaining walls are structurally stable and have an appropriate guard rail/balustrade
- ensure pathways are even and unobstructed

Landlords will have to assess each garden individually and where possible undertake improvement works despite constraints.