

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
25 AUGUST 2022
APPENDIX I

Question from Councillor Sinclair

To Executive Member for Estate Management & Planning

How many public toilets were closed due to Covid-19 response and which of these toilets still remain closed?

Response from Councillor Mountford

The Council has 41 public toilets distributed across 29 settlements and communities.

At the start of the pandemic all toilets were closed.

In August 2020, we reopened 16 facilities in key locations with an enhanced cleaning regime. A further 11 facilities were reopened from August 2021.

27 facilities are currently operating, with the exception of Earlston where there is a temporary but now protracted problem with the locking mechanism. Officers are working with our suppliers to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

14 facilities remain closed. These are:

- Burnmouth
- Eyemouth Harbour
- Jedburgh Lothian Park
- Croft Park and Shedden Park in Kelso
- Bank Street Gardens and the High Street Car Park in Galashiels
- Greenyards in Melrose
- Scotts Place in Selkirk
- Stow
- Howegate and Volunteer Park in Hawick
- School Brae and Eastgate Car Park in Peebles

In Eyemouth, Jedburgh, Kelso, Galashiels, Melrose, Selkirk, Hawick and Peebles, the Council owns more than one facility and have sought to provide one operating facility in each of these towns. All disabled toilets are open.

Supplementary

Councillor Sinclair asked what the timeframe was for opening all facilities and Councillor Mountford advised that there were no current plans to re-open but officers were keeping the situation under review and would bring forward a report with recommendations for the future of these facilities at the earliest opportunity.