

Hello Joseph,

Thank you for your email.

We have now had the opportunity to discuss this with the Applicant's and we have to say that we agree strongly with them that the proposed sliding doors should be considered acceptable. Perhaps it will be of assistance to your decision to give some context as to why it has been proposed to amend the design to sliding doors.

- **Security.** Bi-fold or French doors do not offer the option to just have the door partially open. This design for sliding door operates a lift and lock function, where you can open the door a crack and then lock it in place which means there is less risk of having anyone breaking and entering as they could through a fully open door.
- **Ventilation.** For the same reason as above, this function of opening allows purge ventilation in to the dining and lounge area of the room without having to open an entire door.
- **Disabled accessibility.** Bi-fold doors are too awkward and heavy to be manoeuvred whilst using a wheelchair, whereas the sliding doors offer a gliding solution that (Redacted) is able to operate. There is also a wider clear opening with the sliding doors so it provides full accessibility to/from the raised decking. The Bi-fold doors, for example, offer just one pane to be opened individually which is not wide enough for wheelchair access without having to open the entire set of doors. Furthermore, the sliding doors are able to have a lower profile threshold than bifold doors. Given that this will be a primary exit for (Redacted) it is fundamental that it is as operable as possible.
- **Means of escape.** The importance of the door being operable by (Redacted) in point 3 above is also critical for means of escape from a fire regulations standpoint. Unassisted use of the doors is required for (Redacted) evacuation from the Kitchen/living area in the event of a fire.

Could you please review the assessment in light of the explanation above?

Kind Regards,

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