

Policy on room allocation in cottages on Red Rope trips

(draft 19.5.25)

Twin or small rooms in holiday cottages are more intimate than multibed dorms.

There will be some people who choose to share with a partner or friend.

For the remaining participants, thought needs to be given to people who may or may not know each other when allocating twin rooms.

Allocation of rooms is based on dignity, privacy, respect, and safety. We have same sex spaces in a number of areas of our lives. This is why we pair people of the same sex together in twin-bed rooms.

The most important principles are that:

everyone should feel comfortable with their room sharing arrangement
they should not feel pressured
unfair discrimination should be avoided

There can be a problem if the number of men and women does not even out or there are changes at the last minute.

It may be best to discuss with a transperson or non-binary person if there is someone they know to share with, or allocate them a room to themselves. We recognise and accept that not all people would feel comfortable sharing with a transperson and this needs to be taken into account. It is not appropriate for trip organisers to tell others on the trip that someone on the trip is trans or non-binary.

See page 2 for suggestions to help with room allocation in cottages.

There are a number of ways to help with the allocation of rooms in cottages.

1. Trip organisers could email trip participants saying:

“If you would like to share with a partner or friend, please provide their name.

Please note that It may not be possible for you to share as requested.”

2. The trip organiser can contact participants they don't know, to find out who they are and whether there are any issues about room sharing. They can also ask if they know anyone else going on the trip.
3. It is important that room sharing is agreed in advance of the trip to avoid anxiety or unfairness. This could be either at the pre-trip meeting or through other communication.
4. When one space is left, the trip organiser can call a pre-trip meeting to explore and confirm who will share rooms. This will help to decide who to offer the final place to.
5. To provide flexibility, one room could be allocated to just one person until shortly before the trip. It would mean that if someone drops out, someone of either sex could join the trip. It is best to only do this if it is a popular trip as Red Rope would lose income if the saved space is not filled.
6. It may be that the trips organiser allows someone on the waiting list to leapfrog over others to get the right pairing.
7. If necessary, mixed sex couples may be allocated to separate rooms to share with someone of their own sex so that everyone else can be comfortable sharing.
8. Flexibility can also be provided by the trip organiser identifying whether there is an extra room (eg TV snug) where a mattress could be placed.

The toilets, showers and bathrooms in cottages are private spaces so there is no need to designate these as male and female.