

23.40/i/002

26 January 2024

DESIGN STATEMENT

McKechnie Institute, 40 Dalrymple Street, Girvan KA26 9AE

The purpose of the proposed project is the provision of a passenger lift to enable wheelchair access to first floor in general and the gallery space at first floor. The project is in response to a request by a regular visitor to the museum and gallery and user of a motorised wheelchair for access to first floor spaces. At present there are no facilities for disabled access to first floor.

In order to minimise impact to the structure and furnishes of the Listed B property a passenger lift is proposed to be located in the Reception Area close to the main entrance and centred on a column bay. The main structural features of the property at ground floor, vaulted walls supported by columns with decorated capitals forming bays, will be unaffected by the proposals. The ground and first floor structure is timber floor boards supported by exposed timber joists. Floor openings at ground and first floor will be kept to the minimum size necessary to form penetrations for lift passage.

The proposed lift has been carefully selected not to be oversized but to be capable of accommodating a motorised wheel chair. The lift is proposed to have glazed panels on three sides at ground floor level to minimise its visual impact with the essential lift frame colour Anthracite. At first floor the lift will be largely enclosed within existing and minimally amended walls. A supporting structure of concrete slab with brickwork walls under is to be formed within the solum space timber boards, no lift pit is necessary. The lift is to be contained entirely within first floor level and not penetrate the ceiling.

Existing timber doors and fielded timber wall panelling at both floor levels will remain, with a door at each level retained but made lock fast. A new door opening at ground floor is proposed to maintain access to the Office via the small Exhibition Area room by utilising existing recessed cupboards.

Munro Architects Limited