

# TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

## GUARDING TO RETAINING STRUCTURES IN COMMUNAL AREAS

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(First issue)

### QUESTION

Should guarding provided to retaining walls in communal areas be not readily climbable by children?

### CONSIDERATIONS

- NHBC Standards 'Freestanding walls and retaining structures', clause 9.2 - D3(b) states guarding should be provided where structures are retaining land more than 600mm high to which people have access.
- NHBC Standards 'Garden areas' clause 9.2 - S7 (a) repeats the requirement in clause 9.2 - D3(b) and adds that the guarding should be at least 1100mm high, not readily climbable by children and a 100mm sphere should not be able to pass through any openings in the guarding.
- Technical Guidance 9.2/06 describes guarding requirements where the ground at the foot of a retaining structure slopes away.

### ANSWER

In communal areas where structures retain land more than 600mm high to which people have access the difference in ground level should be guarded to prevent falling.

The reference to 'Garden areas' under NHBC Standards clause 9.2 - D3(b) applies to both private and communal areas. The guarding should therefore be at least 1100mm high, not readily climbable by children and a 100mm sphere should not be able to pass through any openings in the guarding.

Reference should be made to Technical Guidance 9.2/06 for guarding requirements where the ground at the foot of a retaining structure slopes away.