

Document name: Community Empowerment Act 2015 (Scotland)
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OpenLearn course: Empowering communities
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communities/content-section-0](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/money-business/leadership-management/empowering-communities/content-section-0)

Community Empowerment Act 2015 (Scotland)

Development Trusts NI. (n.d.). Time for Change - Time for an NI Community Rights Act. Available at:
<https://www.dtni.org.uk/op-ed/time-change-time-ni-community-rights-act>.

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Right to Participate: Provides communities with powers and opportunity to address an identified need e.g. to tackle inequality, to contribute to regeneration and/or economic development, or improve health & well-being.

Where a community believes it can improve the outcome of a public service:

- 1 Participation request is submitted to public service providers
- 2 Organisation specifies the outcomes it expects to achieve, why it should participate and its relevant knowledge/expertise
- 3 Local authority decision to refuse must be based on reasonable grounds
- 4 Improvements to services agreed through participation requests are published, including how communities were involved in decision making

Right to Assets: Provides community bodies with a right to purchase, lease, manage or use land and buildings belonging to local authorities; distinct from the community right to buy provision that focuses on individuals and companies.

- 1 Community bodies can apply to buy, lease, manage or simply use land and buildings owned by public authorities.
- 2 Requests must be granted unless public authority can demonstrate 'reasonable grounds' not to.
- 3 Communities can request a review of a decision to refuse and an appeal option to government.
- 4 Public bodies must maintain and publish a list of their assets.
- 5 To request ownership the community body must either be constituted as a company limited by guarantee, or a community benefit society.