

Your address...

JULY 10, 2019

TO: WHEELCHAIR SERVICES

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to you in good time – as suggested by yourselves – in advance of my 3 yearly wheelchair budget renewal. The last time was over a year late, and 6 months after me contacting you.

Not sure who will be reading this so a quick history is in order. I was the instigator in the UK, and the reason for what is now called the 'Personal Wheelchair Budget'. Originally on a pilot scheme of one. A decade ago. I had social services, WCS head representative and the UK health secretaries PA, all here at my house for a meeting. After what can best be described as a total failure of WCS at the time. Causing me to build my own chairs for the previous 10 years.

Because WCS and in fact the manufacturers themselves at that time could not provide a powerchair that suited my needs. And because I as an engineer had taken to building my own far superior ones for a decade. it was agreed that you would fund this, 3 yearly (I am a heavy user both literally (weight and hard on chairs because I am very active. Based on the cost of a chair that suits my clinical, lifestyle, and holistic needs. Since I cannot just swap chairs this needs to be usable in my van, outdoors, as well as most of the time indoors too.

And since I design and build chairs, as well as using slightly modified stock chairs I have a lot of knowledge about what is possible, why things work and why they do not. And what's possible. And obviously am in the best position to assess my own needs, and find a chair that is suitable to base your figures on

The last time, you based your figures on a 'salsa' powerchair. With the following specs.

John Williamson.

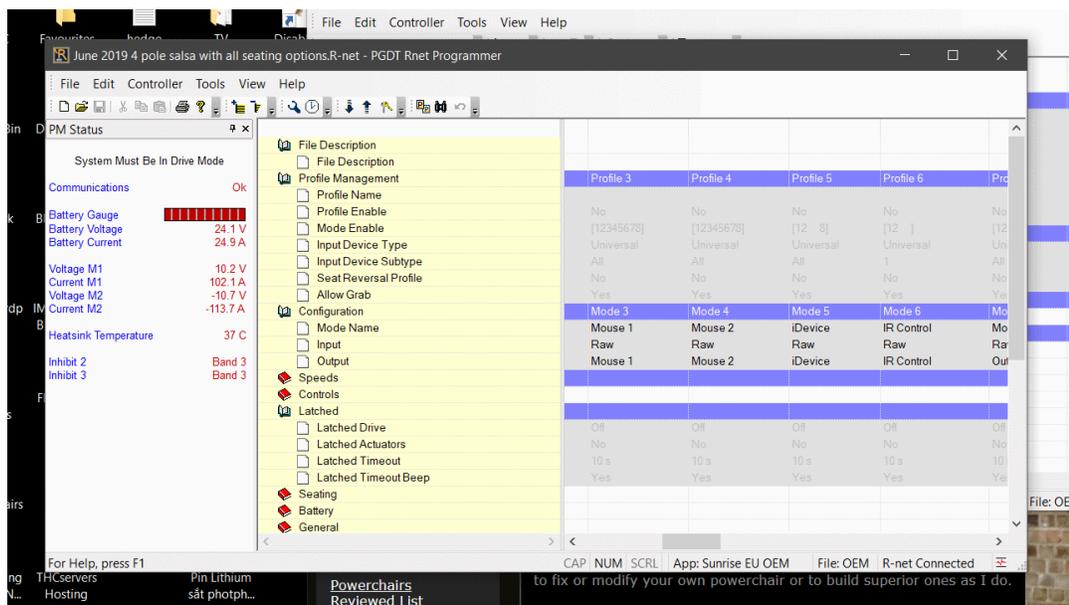
DETAILS/ASSESSMENT

REAR DRIVE Because of straight line stability, no high centering as with mid drives, and no small casters on either end. I suffer muscle spasm, so need 10-inch pneumatic casters to give a smoother ride outdoors or its unbearable. Plus, a mid or front drive has them sticking out behind you hitting everything and taking out people's toes. And front drives offer bad stability without gyro and never steer properly no matter how they are programmed. So, for me only rear drive works.

4 POLE MOTORS I am 20 stone/ 120KG. In a 185KG chair 2 pole motors just do work. Inadequate torque. And rapid brush wear. And it will not turn in place reliably or climb curbs/ramps or thresholds.

With a 4-pole motor, which are approx. half the impedance and therefore almost double the torque, (and also don't burn brushes) a chair is usable, has adequate torque for proper steering and thresholds, steep ramps etc. once programmed correctly.

120A R-Net CONTROLLER 4 pole motors ONLY offer greater torque if you can supply them adequate Amps. With a heavy rehab chair, (185KG) and a heavy 120kg user this is essential for zero speed turns in place and for adequate climbing power to get up the ramp into my van or the pub! Here's a screenshot from the power modules diagnostics, as I turn right at 0mph sat at My desk... Showing that almost 114 amps was needed. (Salsa, 4 pole, 120A module)



DETAILS/ASSESSMENT

SEAT LIFT Since I live alone, obviously I can't reach anything in any high cupboard, shelf, or clean anything above shoulder height. In addition, I have a leg bag that needs raising above a toilet to empty several times a day. And transferring to a different chair, the bed, my dressing bench, or to my bed which are all at different heights becomes impossible without it.

CENTRE POWER FOOTREST (a Build for me option)

With a leg-bag to empty, and lack of ability to reach it, this is essential. But the main reason is that my calves and feet swell like balloons after a few hours if I don't lift them somehow. And it balances the chair so I don't tip out the rear when reclined...

TILT

I have spent many years suffering from pressure sores, going back decades and in some cases spent 12 months on my bed waiting for recovery. Last year 4 + months on my bed on and off, with both Coccyx and ischial sores. These are now very fragile.

So I now use an alternating air cushion, or a Jay2 cushion depending on the day, my backside state etc. TILT (when combined with recline removes the pressure and puts much of it on my back instead. Allowing some blood circulation to oxygenate the pressure sore areas. I do this around 10 times a day, for 10 mins or so.

DETAILS/ASSESSMENT

RECLINE

As above, used to tilt me back and put the weight onto my back instead of my backside!

TILT AND RECLINE USED TOGETHER TO TRANSFER WEIGHT:



Shows wider arms (I have fat arms!), modified headrest, wider tubeless tyres (reliability, and don't sink on soft ground).

LIGHTS (MY COST)

Don't want to be killed going home from the pub

DETAILS/ASSESSMENT

BLACK (MY COST - A build for me option)

Because everything I own is black...

ADVANCED COLOUR JOYSTICK (My cost but now included)

Because you cannot see the nasty LCD joystick outdoors.

SINGLE POST ARMRESTS

Because the chair with lift up arms isn't strong enough for me to lift my bodyweight when pressure lifting or transferring with them. And because the chair when programmed properly can't be steered when the stupid lift up arms are wobbling around.

P SHAPED COMFORT ARM RESTS (My extra cost)

Because the stock hard thin ones give my blisters and they are uncomfortable.

BATTERIES

GRP24 or 70 to 80Ah batteries, currently the largest used in an indoor/outdoor chair are absolutely essential. Those don't last me half a day. Anything less is completely unusable. And because of deep discharge levels last months not years. I replace most of mine at my own expense with (safe) LiFePO4 lithium anyway. This means 3 to 5 times as much range. So, I get through my busy day without the usual range anxiety.

CUSHION

Currently you include a Jay2 or Jay Fusion cushion.

SEAT BACK

Currently you include a Jay back in pricing. Not fitted in these pics.

DETAILS/ASSESSMENT

MAINTAINANCE

You include a figure for 3 years.

MYSELF

20 Stone, 59, VERY ACTIVE, and builds own chairs or buys new and modifies and configures as required. This is why the whole personal budget for powerchairs was formed. To give the USER the choice to do whatever they decide. See attached green flyer. That's me (John 51).

Also attached the previous powerchair prescription form.

T3/4 paraplegic, ILEOSTOMY, and convence/leg-bag, lots of muscle spasm (bad discomfort and spasticity, stomach hernia, etc. and ever fighting pressure sore issues.

Regards,

John Williamson