

Minutes of the 155th Imtac Meeting

- Date and time:** Tuesday 25th November 2025 1:00 pm - 3:15 pm
- Place:** Hybrid meeting held at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast and via ZOOM.
- Present:** Terry McCorry [TMc] (Chairperson), Dave Morton [DMo], Hayley Smallwoods [HS], Jackson Minford [JMd], Eileen Drumm [ED], Hayley Smallwood [HS], Julieanne Crothers [JC], Caroline Dorsett [CD], Johnny Harvey [JH], Barbara Fleming [BF], Dermot Devlin [DD], Rebecca Bamford [RB], Jonathan Mitchell [JM], Paula Meenan [PM].
- Observers:** Scott McClenaghan [SMc] (Department for Infrastructure), Michelle Kelly [MK] (Consumer Council), Dannielle Campbell [DC] (both Translink), Andrea Brown [Disability Action], Anna Doran [Commissioner for Older People].
- Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer [ML]. Angela Reid [AR].
- Apologies:** Christine McClements [CMc], Vivien Blakely [VB], Sam Bell [SB], Cinzia Savonitti [CS], Brian Drury [BD] (Equality Commission), Frances Campbell [FC] (Community Transport Association), Rosanna Jack [RJ].

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1 TMc welcomed everyone and people to introduce themselves, declaring any interests as appropriate. TMc also indicated that the secretariat would be using AI to help with minute taking.

2 Chairperson's updates

- 2.1 TMc informed members that a recent Business Committee has had to be rearranged because of a clash of events. He briefed members on a positive meeting with the Minister in October and

the subsequent announcement on pavement / inconsiderate parking, asking members to note a quote he had provided for the Department press release and an interview given on BBC Radio Foyle.

- 2.4 TMc indicated to members that Imtac will host the next Accessibility Four Nations meeting on the 1st December. ML indicated that Imtac would be tabling an agenda item around Budget proposals, likely to involve changes to the Motability Scheme. Members expressed concerns about the narrative about the scheme.

Action 1: Members agreed that Imtac should develop a policy statement about the Motability Scheme.

Action 2: Members agreed that a joint statement from all the advisory committees about the Motability Scheme should be proposed at the A4N meeting on the 1st December.

3 Draft Disability Strategy

- 3.1 TMc explained a change to the agenda order, asking Observers to leave temporarily as it was proposed to discuss in closed session.

Observers left the meeting.

- 3.2 ML briefed members about sharing of the draft Disability Strategy by the Minister for Communities with Co-Design Group members prior to publication for consultation. He explained the background to the strategy, highlighting co-design stopped when Minister Lyons took up post. ML briefed members on the content of the proposed Strategy, indicating his belief that few if any of the commitments were meaningful.

- 3.3 Members unanimously indicated their unhappiness with the draft Strategy and questioned commitments given around the implementation of CRDP rights and future co-design / coproduction commitments. Members agreed the following approach:

- Imtac will not participate in any activities that suggest it supports or endorses the draft Strategy including providing quotes or attending a launch event.
- In partnership with other Co-Design group members Imtac will write to Minister Lyons making clear that it does not support the draft Strategy, that it should be withdrawn and rewritten in partnership with Deaf and disabled people.
- In partnership with other Co-Design group members Imtac will produce a briefing paper highlighting the deficiencies in the draft Strategy as well as proposals for changes
- Imtac will contact Minister Kimmins to highlight our concerns about the draft Disability Strategy.

Action 3: The secretariat to take forward the agreed measures in relation the draft Disability Strategy.

Observers rejoined the meeting.

4 Observer updates

4.1 DC updated members on the recent meeting of TAWG and the Translink Youth Forum, the review of Navilens at Grand Central on the 8th December, the review of buses and toilets at Grand Central on 26th November, progress with the audit of rail stations, proposed testing of off board passenger information systems and the renewal of the Enterprise rolling stock.

Action 4: DC and the secretariat to liaise over connecting Imtac with the Youth Forum.

4.2 Members asked about issues relating to the ticketing system and making the current half fare concession free. ML explained it related to the replacement of machines at ticket offices in stations. He explained that a work around has been discussed to ensure this does not prevent changes being made.

4.3 Members raised ongoing issues around driver failure to deploy ramps for wheelchair users alighting Glider services.

Action 5: Members agreed that Translink should review and revise the recently introduced policy around ramp deployment on Glider.

4.4 MK highlighted the recent formal review process with Translink of passenger complaints with Translink. She suggested that Imtac members could input into the review of accessibility complaints.

Action 6: ML and MK to liaise over involving Imtac members in accessibility complaints reviews.

4.5 MK thanked Imtac members for their participation in recent trips on Stenaline and the local airports. She suggested that facilitating a visit to Belfast International Airport for Imtac members maybe useful.

Action 7: MK to liaise with the Imtac secretariat over a potential site visit to Belfast International.

4.6 AB informed members about the current Disability and Work Strategy consultation and upcoming open sessions. She indicated that Disability Action had received the draft Disability Strategy and were considering its contents. AB informed members that the Mobility Centre had now received a drive on wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) and invited members to view the vehicle.

Action 6: Secretariat to liaise with AB about visit to view WAV.

4.7 AD updated members of the activities of the new Commissioner for Older people during the first 7 months including a listening exercise to inform a new Corporate Plan, a report into a potential Age Friendly Strategy and discussions around the proposed introduction of the Mental Capacity Act. Responses have also been submitted to consultations on the Anti Poverty Strategy and the Transport Strategy, and transport continues to feature in much of the work of the Commissioner.

4.8 SMc updated members on staffing changes including the appointment of a new Permanent Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Head of Imtac sponsor unit. He also informed members that he

would be taking up a temporary appointment in another part of the Department and thanked members for their support. TMc asked that the minutes record the thanks of the Committee for SMc and other staff retiring or moving posts.

- 4.9 SMc briefed members about the meeting between Imtac and the Minister, the review of the MoU between the Department and Imtac and consideration of potential changes to auditing requirements for Imtac. He updated members on policy developments including the conclusion of Phase 2 of the Review of Community Transport. He concluded by indicating the Budget on the 26th November would enable preparations for Departmental budgets to begin.

5 Working Group and other updates

- 5.1 RB gave members an update on the Transport to Health Task indicating she hoped to finalise a report into the engagement events by mid December with view to starting the next phase of the task in the New Year.

- 5.2 DM briefed members on the recent TAWG meeting including an update on the Northern Ireland findings to the Mencap “No Journeys Left Behind” report.

Action 8: The secretariat to circulate Northern Ireland findings of the Mencap report.

- 5.3 ML updated members about the first meeting of the People, Streets and Places working group. Members discussed the recent proposals to tackle inconsiderate parking. TMc reassured members that these are seen as interim measures and that an outright ban remains the key ask of Imtac.

- 5.4 ML clarified the situation around statements from Imtac. He indicated that where time allowed members would be asked to sign off statements. When this is not possible the chairperson will make a personal comment and not speak on behalf of all members.

- 5.5 ML updated members about the early findings of Blue Badge Parking surveys undertaken by the secretariat in November.
Action 9: ML to draft full parking survey report and circulate to members for comments.
- 5.6 ML updated members on discussions with the Department around issues relating to changing the current half fare concession for disabled people to a free concession. Members agreed that rather than make piecemeal changes, all current recipients of Half Fare concessions should be migrated to a free concession. ML indicated he would be seeking members input into the name of any new Smartpass and whether the qualifying eligibility should be included on a card.
Action 10: Secretariat to circulate options for names and design of a potential new smartpass.
- 5.7 ML updated members on a positive meetings with officials from the Department's Strategic Railways Unit.
Action 11: Members agreed to invite representatives from the Railways Unit to a future Imtac meeting.
- 5.8 ML updated members on other meetings and activities including a meeting about the redevelopment of Bangor seafront, the online meeting re the CRDP Members Bill and an NCAT meeting held in London.

6 Current consultations

- 6.1 ML briefed members about the current consultation on the Disability and Work Strategy, indicating barriers such as access to transport were not fully included.
Action 12: Members agreed to submit a short response to the consultation.

7 Minutes of the last meeting

- 7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Proposed: Dave Morton Seconded: Eileen Drumm

7.2 An update on evacuation procedures for wheelchair users from Goldline coaches will be given at the next meeting.

8 Any other Business

8.1 There was no further business.

9 Date, Time and Venue of Next meeting

9.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th February 2026, at 1pm, online and in person at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.

List of Actions

Action 1: Members agreed that Imtac should develop a policy statement about the Motability Scheme.

Action 2: Members agreed that a joint statement from all the advisory committees about the Motability Scheme should be proposed at the A4N meeting on the 1st December.

Action 3: The secretariat to take forward the agreed measures in relation the draft Disability Strategy.

Action 4: DC and the secretariat to liaise over connecting Imtac with the Youth Forum.

Action 5: Members agreed that Translink should review and revise the recently introduced policy around ramp deployment on Glider.

Action 6: ML and MK to liaise over involving Imtac members in accessibility complaints reviews.

Action 7: MK to liaise with the Imtac secretariat over a potential site visit to Belfast International.

Action 8: The secretariat to circulate Northern Ireland findings of the Mencap report.

Action 9: ML to draft full parking survey report and circulate to members for comments.

Action 10: Secretariat to circulate options for names and design of a potential new smartpass.

Action 11: Members agreed to invite representatives from the Railways Unit to a future Imtac meeting.

Action 12: Members agreed to submit a short response to the consultation.