Minutes of the 156th Imtac Meeting

Date and time:	Tuesday 24th February 2026, 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], Jackson Minford [JMd], Eileen Drumm [ED], Julieanne Crothers [JC], Caroline Dorsett [CD], Johnny Harvey [JH], Barbara Fleming [BF], Sam Bell [SB], Dermot Devlin [DD], Christine McClements [CMc], Paula Meenan [PM].
Observers:	Scott McClenaghan [SMc] & Linda Buick (both Department for Infrastructure), Hannah Brown (Consumer Council), Dannielle Campbell [DC] & Rosanna Jack (both Translink), Frances Campbell [FC] (Community Transport Association), Anna Doran [Commissioner for Older People].
In attendance:	Brenda Burke [BB] (Department for Infrastructure), Mark White [MW] (Department for Infrastructure).
Secretariat:	Michael Lorimer [ML].
Apologies:	Vivien Blakely [VB], Cinzia Savonitti [CS], Rebecca Bamford [RB], Jonathan Mitchell [JM], Andrea Brown [Disability Action], Angela Reid [AR].

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

1.1 TMc welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked people to introduce themselves, declaring any interests as appropriate. TMc indicated that the secretariat would be recording the meeting to help with minute taking.

2 Chairperson’s updates

2.1 TMc briefed members about a very busy period for the Committee including hosting a meeting of the Accessibility 4 Nations Group, a Business Committee and a meeting with Minister Kimmins regarding our concerns with the Disability Strategy parking. TMc also highlighted a meeting with Belfast Healthy Cities to discuss Imtac participation in a Strategic Transport Poverty Forum. He concluded by mentioning changes to personnel within the Department, welcoming Brenda and Linda to the meeting.

3 Observers updates

3.1 MW gave a brief update on progress in introducing legislation to increase enforcement of inconsiderate parking. He explained that work had started on drafting the legislation and further conversations with Imtac will be required particularly in relation to issues such as exemptions. MW indicated that whilst the legislation did not require formal consultation there will be an opportunity for public comment. Finally, he highlighted important awareness raising and campaigns on the issue, particularly the work of Causeway, Coast and Glens Council.

3.2 TMc thanked MW and welcomed the proposed changes whilst indicating an outright ban still remained Imtac’s position. He asked about enforcement including use of evidence sent by members of the public. MW outlined early discussions with Parking Enforcement Unit, highlighting potential difficulties with camera evidence.

3.3 ML updated members about an initial meeting with the Motorcycle Action Group around potential exemptions from the legislation for motorcycles.

3.4 Members asked a range of questions including around impact on existing PSNI powers, pavement parking by security vans, whether there was an observation period before enforcement and resources for enforcement. Members reiterated the Imtac view that changes are partial solution and that two-wheel parking on the pavement remains the larger problem. MW indicated that issues would be considered as part of developing the legislation.

MW left the meeting.

3.5 DC thanked ML for helping with recruiting people to advise on procurement of new Enterprise rolling stock. She updated members about progress in trialling rail audio announcements at Grand Central and approval to purchase a second sensory nook for the station. DC outlined plans to engage with Imtac around updating Condition of Carraige on buses for pets and animals and complaint handling.
Action 1: DC to share proposed revisions to Conditions of Carraige with secretariat.
Action 2: DC to liaise with CMc and secretariat re proposed second sensory nook.

3.6 Members raised issues with online and ticket vending machine ticket purchases, continued issues for wheelchair users alighting Glider, a query as whether buses where ramps are out of order should continue in service and access issues at Omagh bus station.
Action 3: DC to clarify the policy around operating buses where ramps are broken or out of order and the access changes at Omagh bus stations.

3.7 AD briefed members on the Commissioner Corporate Plan including key priorities, the publication of two reports including accessing services, responses to consultations including the Disability Strategy, a comms update on work around older drivers and Share the Road to Zero campaign. AD concluded with a summary of transport queries received by the Commissioner's Office.

3.8 HB updated members about plans to host a meeting with Imtac and Translink to discuss complaints and a proposed site visit for members to Belfast International airport.
Action 4: HB to liaise with secretariat over dates for proposed meeting and site visit.

3.9 FC updated members on responding to consultations and supporting funding applications to the Motability Foundation. She highlighted a CTA UK campaign around changes to D1 Licensing, the development of a passenger survey and engagement with local councils over transport Plans and the Department over review of community transport.
Action 5: FC to circulate details of the campaign and passenger survey via the secretariat.

3.10 SMc updated members on the changes to the Imtac Sponsor Team as well as wider Departmental personnel changes including the appointment of Emer Morelli as Permanent Secretary. He briefed members about the meeting between Imtac and Minister in January, the consultation on the Draft Budget, wider budget uncertainty, the finalisation of the review of the MoU with Imtac and the development of Imtac work programme.
Action 6: Members agreed to respond to submit a response to Budget consultation.
Action 7: ML and SMc to liaise over date and arrangements for an Imtac and Department Sponsor Branch meeting.

4 Imtac response to the Draft Disability Strategy

4.1 ML updated members about developments since the last meeting including a meeting with the Minister, the development and revisions of a briefing paper and an open letter calling for significant changes to the draft Strategy. ML indicated that drafting a response, based on the themes on the briefing paper was a priority.

4.2 Members highlighted the inadequacy of the draft Strategy and the wider regression in the provision of services, funding and resources used by disabled people. Members agreed the need for a strong response and the need to encourage as many others as possible to do the same.
Action 8: Members agreed the Imtac consultation response should be developed along the lines proposed and circulated widely before the closing date on the 20th March.

5 Other consultations

5.1 ML briefed members on a DfI consultation around current speed limits for urban and rural areas. He suggested the committee should support greater use of 20mph limits in urban areas and 50mph on some rural roads. He also highlighted contact made by campaign group 20s Plenty about the consultation. Members asked for clarification for which rural roads would be impacted but broadly supported the approach proposed.
Action 9: Secretariat to draft and submit response to the speed limit consultation.

5.2 ML briefed members on a consultation by DfT around the regulation of powered mobility devices. He highlighted the inadequacy of current legislation and the overdue need for significant updating. ML indicated that the review only applied to Great Britain, not Northern Ireland. After discussion members agreed not to respond to the DfT consultation but to seek as similar review for Northern Ireland.
Action 10: Secretariat to clarify who in Northern Ireland is responsible for the regulation of powered devices and seek to include the need for review in next year’s work programme.

6 Working Group and other updates

6.1 DMo briefed members on two Translink presentations at the last Translink Accessibility Working Group meeting. ML highlighted the opportunity for Imtac to user test the roll out of on board and off board information systems.

6.2 ML updated members about discussions on the People, Streets and Places working about the Active Travel Design Guide. He indicated that the Department is now seeking feedback on the design guide and indicated how he proposes the Committee responds including hosting a workshop and involving Wheels for Wellbeing.
Action 11: Secretariat to circulate copies of the Active Travel Design Guide, seek an extension to the deadline for feedback and organise wider engagement.

6.3 ML highlighted a meeting on the 26th February in Derry to discuss the Central Riverside public realm scheme, Disability Equality Training sessions in March, and meets with of the Strategic Design Group and Nighttime Economy working group. He concluded by mentioning the Work Programme planning meeting on the 10th March and the member recruitment which closes on the 26th February. Members asked about for the potential to set up a facility to shared diary and other information.
Action 12: Members to indicate to AG their availability for participation in DET on the 11th and 12th March.
Action 13: Secretariat to circulate details and papers for the Work Programme Planning meeting on the 10th March.
Action 14: Secretariat to explore setting up facility for sharing documents and diary dates.

7 Imtac papers

7.1 ML briefed members about the report into Blue Badge usage in Belfast city centre explaining how it will be used in discussions with the Department around the proposed Eastern Transport Plan. Members emphasised the importance of parking for many disabled people and concerns over existing enforcement.
Action 15: Members to provide final comments on the Blue Badge Survey report in the next 7-10 days.

7.2 ML briefed members about the draft statement about the Motability Scheme, setting out the background to the paper including online hostility and comments from the media and politicians. Members raised concerns about the attacks on the scheme as part of wider attacks on disabled people and the potential negative impact of proposed changes. Members also raised concerns about their experiences accessing / using the scheme, highlighting reforms needed to improve the scheme.
Action 16: Members to submit initial comments on the Motability statement in the next 7-10 days.

8 Minutes of the last meeting / Matters arising

8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved:
Proposed: Jonny Harvey Seconded: Julieanne Crothers

8.1 TMc explained the rationale for not proceeding with the joint statement on Motability between advisory bodies.

9 Any other business

9.1 SMc updated members about the potential of using a survey to gather evidence from Half Fare Smartpass users about the impact of changing to a free concession. Members welcomed the proposal and offered support from the Committee.

9.2 JC updated members about her work campaigning for changes to the Half Fare Smartpass. ML highlighted the request for Imtac to share and sign an open letter from campaigners.
Action 17: Members agreed Imtac should sign and share the open letter requesting changes to the Half Fare Smartpass.

9.3 RJ informed members about plans to develop an awareness video around inclusive travel. RJ also informed members that David Cowan is retiring from Translink at the end of February. Members asked their thanks to David be recorded in the minutes.

10 Dates, times and venues of next meetings

10.1 The next meeting will be held on:

- Work Programme Planning Day, Tuesday 10th March 2026 from 12.30pm, online and in person at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.
- Imtac meeting and AGM, Tuesday 23rd June 2026 at 1pm, online and in person at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast.

List of Actions

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Action 2: DC to liaise with CMc and secretariat re proposed second sensory nook.

Action 3: DC to clarify the policy around operating buses where ramps are broken or out of order and the access changes at Omagh bus stations.

Action 4: HB to liaise with secretariat over dates for proposed meeting and site visit.

Action 5: FC to circulate details of the campaign and passenger survey via the secretariat.

Action 6: Members agreed to respond to submit a response to Budget consultation.

Action 7: ML and SMc to liaise over date and arrangements for an Imtac and Department Sponsor Branch meeting.

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the closing date on the 20th March.

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