

Minutes of the 157th Imtac Meeting

- Date and time:** Tuesday 30th June 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], Cinzia Savonitti [CS], Rebecca Bamford [RB], Jonathan Mitchell [JMI], Patrick O'Neill [Pon], Rachel Hassan [RH], Bert Bailie [BB], Christopher Wightman [CW].
- Observers:** Scott McClenaghan [SMc] (Department for Infrastructure), Daniel Murray [DM] (Consumer Council), Dannielle Campbell [DC] & Rosanna Jack (both Translink), Frances Campbell [FC] (Community Transport Association), Paul Noonan [PN] (Equality Commission for Northern Ireland).
- Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer [ML], Angela George [AG].
- Apologies:** Vivien Blakely [VB], Hayley Smallwoods [HS], Anna Doran [AD].

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

- 1.1 TMc welcomed everyone to the meeting, highlighting in particular new members to their first meeting and those members attending their last meeting. Members and observers introduced themselves.

2 Chairperson's updates

- 2.1 TMc briefed members about activities since the last meeting including a meeting with the Dfl Sponsor Branch, a meeting of the

Accessibility Four Nations Group (A4N), a meeting of the Bus Procurement Working Group, a meeting with the Consumer Council and Translink about complaints, engagement around the new Enterprise rolling stock and a meeting with South Antrim Community Transport and the Community Transport Association.

2.2 TMc informed members that a proposed meeting with Minister Muir will be rescheduled for September. In the interim the secretariat has met with the Climate Change Lead in DAERA. ML also attended the latest Belfast Healthy Cities Transport and Poverty Forum on behalf of the chair.

2.3 TMc updated members about the rescheduling of the Annual General Meeting. He asked that the Annual Report be agreed in advance of the AGM to allow for a request to meet Minister Kimmins to be made.

Action 1: Members to submit final comments on the Annual Report in the next 7 days.

Action 2: The Chairperson to write to Minister Kimmins to request a meeting to discuss the Annual Report.

3 Observers updates

3.1 SMc updated members about the review of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department and Imtac which is nearing completion. He updated on the delays to agreeing an Executive Budget and the agreement of an interim Work Programme and grant payments with Imtac. He updated members on policy issues including active travel, transport plans and a recent Public Health Agency event on an Age Friendly Future.

3.2 AB updated members about ongoing funding issues due a lack of Executive budget as well as the impact of changes associated with UK funding of the Local Growth Fund. She indicated that funding application is being submitted with community transport operators for capital funding.

3.3 DC updated members on the next phase of the Enterprise rolling stock engagement which will involve a mock-up of carriages. She informed members that detailed design work has started on Glider Phase 2 and the impact of funding issue on the Rail Halt

Accessibility Project. In response to questions DC confirmed that the Enterprise rolling stock will be level access and that Imtac would be involved in early discussions on the Glider Phase 2 design considerations.

Action 3: DC to provide an update on proposals to provide additional quiet / sensory space at Grand Central Station.

- 3.4 FC provided a CTA update to members including issues around funding due to a lack of Executive Budget, a member's survey and plans for CT Week in October focused on driver licensing. She also highlighted ongoing input in to the reviews of community transport services and permitting.

- 3.5 DM informed members that the Consumer Council had responded to the Department for Transport (DfT) consultation on the review of legislation for powered mobility devices which has been highlighted to the relevant contact in DfI. He updated on a meeting with Imtac and Translink to discuss complaints and the site visit to Belfast International Airport in May including a review of new Blue Badge car parking. Members asked if site visit timings could be later in the day and for clarification about how assistance services can be requested for people arriving at local airports.

Action 4: DM / HB to provide an update on how assistance services can be requested at local airports.

- 3.6 PN provided an update on recent staffing changes. He provided updates on the DfC Disability and Employment Strategy and wider Disability Strategy, expressing disappointment that key Commission recommendations have not been adopted in the former. PN also updated plans for future meetings of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism for Northern Ireland (IMNI) Disability Advisory Forum.

Action 5: PN and RJ to liaise over a query about recent case law.

Action 6: ML to circulate a written update from the Commissioner for Older People's office.

4 Active Travel Discussion

4.1 ML briefed members about the increasing workload emerging active travel schemes are placing on the Committee as well as ongoing into design and strategic planning for active travel. He asked members to (1) agree final comments to the Department on the Active Travel Design Guide and (2) discuss how the committee manages responses to scheme proposals.

4.2 A significant discussion took place covering a range of issues including what standards should be used in schemes, identifying consistent concerns around emerging schemes, responding in detail to signature projects and involving relevant members in local proposals. Members also agreed to send final comments to the Department on the Design Guide.

Action 7: ML to update the comments on the |Active Travel Design Guide and forward to the Department.

Action 8: ML to draft a briefing document highlighting common concerns with emerging schemes to be used for responding to consultations.

Action 9: Secretariat to create a log of schemes and coordinate responses including identifying where detailed comments are required and where members can provide support.

4.3 Members asked about the creation of shared folder and calendar to enable easy access to current documents and upcoming events.

Action 10: Secretariat to liaise with members to put in place a shared document / calendar facility for members before the next meeting.

5 Working Group and other updates

5.1 ML updated members about recent meetings of the Translink Accessibility Working Group (TAWG) and the People Streets and Places Working Group (PSPWG). PSPWG focused on the Active Travel Design Group. The TAWG meeting discussed proposals for an awareness raising video around buses, a review of changes to

the accessibility section of the Translink website and production of Easy Read information.

- 5.2 ML highlighted DET training undertaken in May with DfI officials and plans for further sessions with DfI and Translink in the autumn. He updated on National Centre for Accessible Transport (NCAT) events in Westminster and Belfast and the most recent A4N meeting which included an update from Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on Motability changes. He concluded by updating on DfT led discussions on the UK response to EU proposals for accessibility standards for electric vehicle charging and the clarification provided to the Department on Imtac's position on parking wholly on the pavement following misunderstanding in briefings provided by the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG).
- 5.3 ML updated members on actions around the Disability Strategy since the last meeting including the submission of a detailed response, the forwarding of the Open Letter to Executive Ministers and responses received and a further request to meet with Minister Lyons. Members agreed to continue to be open and transparent about activities connected to the Disability Strategy including continuing to publish correspondence sent and received.
- 5.4 A wide ranging discussion took place around the Motability Scheme and the impact of recent changes announced to the scheme. ML highlighted the offer from the Motability Foundation to engage with the Committee.

Action 11: The Secretariat to liaise with the Motability Foundation to set up a meeting with members.

6 Proposed "Reality Check" engagement task

- 6.1 ML briefed members on proposals to undertake a reality check engagement exercise with Deaf, Disabled, Older people and others including carers to identify what improvements have been made and what still needs to be done since the last such task in 2019. It is proposed to use a survey and public meetings.

Following discussion members agreed to the broad approach to the task.

Action 12: Secretariat to circulate detailed proposals for engagement survey and events to members for comment and input.

7 Minutes of the last meeting / Matter arising

7.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved:

Proposed: Dermot Devlin Seconded: Dave Morton

7.2 The following were agreed as actions from matters arising.

Action 13: DC to clarify the policy around operating buses where ramps are broken or out of order.

Action 14: Secretariat to circulate correspondence from Minister and Infrastructure Committee regarding Imtac's Blue Badge Survey Report.

8 Any other business

8.1 ML briefed members about discussions with Translink and Belfast City Council around travel and access arrangements proposed for the Fleadh in Belfast City Centre in August including extended pedestrian zones. He expressed concerns about the proposals both in terms of the arrangements for the event but also wider implications for proposals for changes to the city centre traffic management in the future.

8.2 A lively discussion took place including contributions from members of the City Council Disability Advisory Forum. Members shared the concerns expressed by the secretariat and agreed these concerns should be raised with relevant stakeholders.

Action 15: Members agreed the city council should be contacted immediately and clarification sought on a range of issues relating to arrangements for the Fleadh.

Action 16: Members agreed that concerns about arrangements for the Fleadh should be raised with city

council at the highest level with Ministers for Infrastructure and Communities copied in.

Action 17: Members agreed that officials from Department for Infrastructure responsible for planning traffic and travel in the city centre be made aware of concerns over plans for the Fleadh.

9 Dates, times and venues of next meetings

- 9.1 The next Intac meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th September 2026 at 1pm, online and in person at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast. Arrangements for the AGM to be confirmed.

List of Actions

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Action 4: DM / HB to provide an update on how assistance services can be requested at local airports.

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