Minutes of the 158th Imtac Meeting

Date and time:	Tuesday 29th September 2026, 13.00 – 15.15
Place:	Hybrid meeting held at the Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast and via ZOOM.
Present:	Terry McCorry [TMc) (Chairperson), Jackson Minford [JMd], Eileen Drumm [ED], Caroline Dorsett [CD], Johnny Harvey [JH], Barbara Fleming [BF], Sam Bell [SB], Dermot Devlin [DD], Christine McClements [CMc], Patrick O'Neill [Pon], Bert Bailie [BB], Christopher Wightman [CW].
Observers:	Scott McClenaghan [SMc] (Department for Infrastructure), Michelle Kelly (Consumer Council), Dannielle Campbell [DC] & Rosanna Jack (both Translink), Frances Campbell [FC] (Community Transport Association), Natasha McClelland [NMc] (Equality Commission for Northern Ireland).
Secretariat:	Michael Lorimer [ML], Angela George [AG].
Apologies:	Julieanne Crothers [JC], Dave Morton [DMo], Paula Meenan [PM], Cinzia Savonitti [CS], Rebecca Bamford [RB], Jonathan Mitchell [JMl], Anna Doran [AD], Andrea Brown [AB].

1 Welcome, introductions, apologies and declarations of interest

1.1 TMc welcomed everyone to the meeting. He asked members and observers introduced themselves, declaring any interests where appropriate.

2 Chairperson's updates

2.1 TMc updated members on plans to hold the rescheduled AGM in early November, tying the event to the launch of the proposed

conversation about the progress in making transport and travel accessible and inclusive.
Action 1: Secretariat to circulate date and details of the rescheduled AGM.

2.2 TMc informed members that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department has been reviewed and signed off. He updated members on the outputs from the recent Business Committee including agreement to regrade the Executive Secretary post, adoption of a Safeguarding Policy and agreement to amend current recruitment procedures to include a values statement.
Action 2: Secretariat to make MoU and polices available as shared documents.

2.3 TMc informed members that correspondence was sent to the Lord Mayor with the Infrastructure Minister copied in around concerns about the Fleadh. He indicated that discussions had taken place with Minister Kimmins around dialogue to ensure lessons are learned for the 2027 Fleadh and proposals for the Eastern Travel Plan.

2.4 TMc updated members about meetings with Minister Kimmins, Gerard Carlin (CEO of Translink) and Minister Muir. He informed members that meeting will be held with the Motability Foundation in early October. Members raised concerns about increasing barriers created by Motability for Disabled people accessing their services.

2.5 ML raised concerns about delays arranging a date to meet with Minister Lyons to discuss concerns about the Disability Strategy.
Action 3: After discussion members agreed to write to the Communities Committee to ask to brief the Committee about concerns.

3 Observers updates

3.1 DC updated members on planned engagement on the Enterprise Rolling Stock design, on board and off board audio visual information and BRT Phase 2 vehicle design. DC briefed members on progress with the rail accessibility audit, indicating budget issues may delay progress. Members asked to clarification on

progress on securing an accessible sensory space for Grand Central Station. DC indicated budget uncertainty is delaying decisions. Members asked for clarification around whether buses with non-working ramps are removed from service when faults are identified.

Action 4: DC to liaise with Secretariat about engagement around on board and off board audio visual and BRT Phase 2 vehicle design.

Action 5: Inclusive and accessible sensory space at Grand Central to be revisited at the next Imtac meeting.

Action 6: DC to get clarification about procedures around non-working ramps on buses in service.

3.2 RJ outlined the issues being discussed at a meeting about double deck coach procurement on the 5th October, encouraging members to contribute. RJ thanked members for contributing to filming for a video about accessible buses as well as progress in developing an easy read guide to rail and revisions to the Translink website. RJ highlighted Disability Equality Training planned to be delivered to Translink senior leaders on the 3rd and 4th November. Members highlighted the value of DET sessions and commended Translink for a recent improved response to an online complaint.

3.3 FC updated members on plans for CT week in October as well as work looking at the impact of rising fuel costs and issues around driver age profile and pay.

3.4 MK updated members on planned airport audit meetings including an online meeting with City of Derry in October and Belfast International, likely to be a site visit in December. Members asked for more flexibility in timings of site visits, with some visits starting later in the day.

3.5 SMc updated members on the signing of the revised MoU, the ongoing budget uncertainty and its impact on adopting the Imtac Work Programme. SMc highlighted the ongoing engagement with Imtac and the Department over active travel and the development of transport strategy and plans.

3.6 NMc updated members on staff changes and indicated that the Commission was aware of no progress with either the Disability Strategy or the Disability and Employment Strategy.

4 Experiences of hate crime using public transport

4.1 TMc informed members that an additional task has been included in the work programme around hate crime, reflecting a recent experience of an Imtac member. ML briefed members on proposed first steps including an investigation into current policy, procedures and practices around hate crime in partnership with Translink. PSNI and the Departments of Infrastructure and Justice.

4.2 A significant discussion took place covering a range of issues including members experiences, issues of other crime on public transport including towards staff and the need to educate people in terms of impact of hate crime and rights. Members linked the issue with violence against woman and girls and highlighted an ongoing inquiry by the Westminster Transport Committee and work ongoing in Northern Ireland on the issue. Members suggested establishment of a working group to examine the issue.
Action 7: Members agreed that tackling hate crime should be a standing agenda item at Imtac meeting.
Action 8: An initial update on current policy, practices and procedures around hate crime will be given at the next meeting.

5 Working Group and other updates

5.1 ML indicated that it was hoped to progress the Transport and Health task in the coming months.

5.2 ML updated members on a request from the Department to brief members on progress on legislation around changes to inconsiderate parking enforcement.

Action 9: Secretariat to send out details of the online meeting to discussion inconsiderate parking legislation, likely to be mid-October.

5.3 ML updated members active travel programmes for small schemes in rural areas and improving the maintenance of existing footways in line with member recommendations.

6 Conversation about travel and transport

6.1 ML briefed members on the proposed approach to the proposed conversation about travel and transport, using an initial survey followed by workshops. He asked members for initial thoughts on this approach and the draft survey included in members packs.

6.2 Members asked that a timeline be developed for the project with a view to reporting to inform the incoming Minister and Executive. Members asked that the survey be amended to include an earlier question for people to indicate they are completing the survey on behalf of someone else.
Action 10: Secretariat to amend the survey and draft a proposed timeline.
Action 11: Members to feedback comments on the draft survey in the next 7-10 days.

7 Translink consultation on potential changes to services and fares

7.1 ML briefed member on the proposed response to the current consultation including greater emphasis on the impact on young people of reducing travel concessions suggested by members.
Action 12: Secretariat to submit a response to the Translink consultation based on the issues agreed by members.

8 Minutes of the last meeting / Matter arising

8.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved:
Proposed: Caroline Dorset Seconded: Jonny Harvey

8.2 ML updated members on the creation of provision for sharing diary dates and documents. He asked for member feedback. Members asked for refreshed links to be sent out, a method to distinguish between different types of event in the diary and support to use both platforms.
Action 13: Secretariat to coordinate and implement improvements to access to the shared diary and document provision.

9 Any other business

9.1 ML indicated that consultation on the Eastern Transport Plan and the final recommendations of the Timms Review will be published in October.

10 Dates, times and venues of next meetings

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

10.2 The Imtac AGM will be held on Thursday 5th November 2026 at 2pm, online and in person at the Ulster Museum, Belfast.

List of Actions

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