

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
102<sup>nd</sup> Imtac MEETING**

- Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012, The Mount, Belfast
- Present:** Max O'Brien (Chair)  
Bert Bailie, Barbara Fleming, Ronnie Patterson,  
Elizabeth Black, Ann Gamble, Etta Mann, David Mann,  
Joan Harbison, Des McAuley, Jim Nash
- Apologies:** June Best, Ann Collins, David McDonald, Rosemary  
Patton, Norma Moore, Kellie Armstrong
- Observers:** Terry Butler, Ryan Simpson, Naomi Roberts, Keith  
Walsh
- Secretariat:** Michael Lorimer, Cathy Boyd

**1. Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were given from David McDonald, Ann Collins and June Best.

**2. Minutes of the previous meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

The minutes were agreed as accurate.

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 **Disability Strategy:** Imtac's response to the OFMDFM Disability Strategy was sent to the Department on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Members asked the secretariat to seek an update from OFMDFM about the next steps in developing the Strategy.

**Action: Michael will contact Joe Reynolds to find out the process and timescale for the development of the Disability Strategy.**

**3.2 Streets Ahead/Sustainable Transport Enabling**

**Measures:** Members asked if more time could be given to enable the React pilots to proceed. Michael updated members on the problems with the systems and assured members that all steps have been taken to resolve the issues.

**3.3 AV on Buses:** Members asked for an update regarding the role of out of AV. Michael informed the members that the evaluation report had been positive and was well received by both Regional Development and Environment Committees at Stormont. Roll out will be dependent on resources being available.

**Action: Michael will issue the DRD AV on Buses Evaluation Report to members. Following review of the report, the Chair will write to the department, on behalf of the committee, to express their support for the extension of AV to all buses.**

**3.4 Class 3 Mobility Scooters:** Michael briefed members on work undertaken by the secretariat into the use of Class 3 mobility equipment on trains. The secretariat advice was that Translink remain flexible advising users of larger mobility scooters to contact Translink before travel. After discussion the Committee agreed this proposal.

**Action: Michael will write to Translink to outline Imtac position regarding Class 3 Mobility Scooters.**

**3.5 Register of Interests:** any members who had not signed the Imtac Declaration of Interests form were asked to do so after the meeting, including signing to say a member did not have any interests to declare.

## 4. Working Group Updates

- 4.1 **NI Direct:** Michael advised that Imtac Secretariat met with officials and agreed that Imtac will provide the NI Direct Team with a paper suggesting changes to contact needed to improve the site for older people and disabled people to use. Suggested changes will be presented to the Imtac Committee for input and review.
- 4.2 **Blue Badge surveys:** Michael advised members of work on the Imtac Blue Badge surveys saying the report will be issued for comment from members by the end of September.
- 4.3 **Translink Access Guide:** Michael updated members saying the Imtac review of NI train halts is complete and that the report will be issued for members comment at the end of September.
- 4.4 **Pedestrian Environment paper:** Members discussed the revised paper following the previous meeting. Following discussion the Chair asked members to provide comments / feedback within 7-10 days to allow the paper to be issued within 2 weeks as normal response time.  
**Action: Chair asked members to provide comments / feedback within 7-10 days to allow the Pedestrian Environment paper to be issued within 2 weeks and members agreed this as normal response time for future papers.**
- 4.5 **Membership of Imtac Committees:** The Chair updated members on plans for the future membership of working groups. Each group will have a nucleus of 4 or 5 members on each group including Convenor / Deputy Convenor to ensure continuity of input and development of papers. The agenda will be issued to all members to allow them to decide if they wish to attend the working group.

**Action: Secretariat will issue updated working groups and meeting dates to members**

5. **Observers Updates**

- 5.1 **DRD Update:** The ATS Action Plan will be published in the autumn. Engagement with health is on-going around the Bamford Review and the proposed Autism Strategy. The DRD is piloting access to bus stations for a private operator. Extensions to the AV pilot will be subject to finance being available. A consultation on the future of door2door services will be published in the autumn. The British Irish Council work around online information for disabled people about transport in the different jurisdictions is progressing.
- 5.2 **Translink update:** members were advised that most of the additional 64 buses have been added to the Translink stock.
- 5.3 **Equality Commission NI update:** members updated on the outcome of a recent legal case, settled out of court, around charging for wheelchair users and taxi companies. Having sought additional legal opinion the Equality Commission has been advised that any future complaint is likely to be against an individual driver rather than the company and that additional, though not excessive, charging for a wheelchair user is likely to be deemed lawful. Members expressed disappointment at these findings.
- 5.4 **Consumer Council update:** members updated on recent survey of people with reduced mobility using air travel saying the report will be issued shortly. The report on Barriers to Complaining is available on the Consumer Council website. Members were advised that EU Maritime rights for passengers with reduced mobility on ferries will be

introduced in December. The Consumer Council plan to work with a range of stakeholders, including Imtac, in the run up to their introduction.

## **6 Current Consultations**

- 6.1 Members agreed that no response would be sent to the current Roads Service consultation on the use of bus lanes by taxis or the Department for Transport consultations on Blue Badge eligibility or EU Regulation on access to bus and coach services.
- 6.2 Members agreed to submit Imtac's paper on Flexible Transport in response to the Regional Committee inquiry into the better use of resources to deliver bus services.
- 6.3 Members discussed the draft response to proposals from DfT for the abolition of DPTAC and potential successor arrangements. Members broadly endorsed the draft response. After discussion members were asked to submit any final comments to Michael as soon as possible.
- 6.4 Members discussed the draft revised Equality Scheme for the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company. The consensus of members was that the draft Scheme did not fully reflect the difficulties faced by older people and disabled people seeking to access Translink services. Members were asked to submit issues to the secretariat in time for the deadline for comments on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.  
**Action: members asked to provide any comments on consultations within 7-10 days.**

## **7 Any Other Business**

- 7.1 Age North Down & Ards will issue their Rural Isolation report to DRD and Imtac, including observers organisations.

7.2 Imtac members would like Translink representatives to demonstrate their new website for comment at the next meeting.

8 **Date of next meeting**

**The next meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at 12.30pm in The Mount, Belfast.**

**Summary of Action Points:**

Michael will contact Joe Reynolds to find out the process and timescale for the Disability Strategy Consultation.

**Action: Michael**

Michael will issue the DRD AV on Buses Evaluation Report to members. Following review of the report, the Chair will write to the department, on behalf of the committee, to express their support for the extension of AV to all buses.

**Action: Michael / Imtac Chairperson**

Secretariat will write to Translink to outline Imtac position regarding Class 3 Mobility Scooters.

**Action: Michael**

Secretariat will provide updates for members on dates and arrangements for working groups.

**Action: Michael**

Members to provide comments on the pedestrian paper within 7-10 days.

**Action: Imtac members**

Members asked to provide any comments on consultations within 7-10 days.

**Action: Imtac members**