



Imtac Work Programme 2020 / 21

(Updated Version June 2020)

Imtac is committed to making information about our work accessible. Details of how to obtain information in your preferred format are included on the next page.

Making our information accessible

As an organisation of and for disabled people and older people Imtac recognises that the way information is provided can be a barrier to accessing services and participation in public life. We are committed to providing information about our work in formats that best suit the needs of individuals.

All our documents are available in hard copy in 14pt type size as standard. We also provide word and pdf versions of our documents on our website – www.imtac.org.uk. In addition we will provide information in a range of other formats. These formats include:

- Large print
- Audio versions
- Braille
- Electronic copies on disc or via email in PDF or word
- Easy read
- Information about our work in other languages

If you would like this publication in any of the formats listed above or if you have any other information requirements please contact:

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About Imtac

The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (Imtac) is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including key transport professionals. Its role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.

The aim of Imtac is to ensure that disabled people and older people have the same opportunities as everyone else to travel when and where they want.

Imtac receives support from the Department for Infrastructure (herein after referred to as the Department).

About this Work Programme

The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) 2015 published in 2005. The ATS required Imtac to publish a work programme each year "detailing such transport matters that affect older people and people with disabilities [disabled people] as the Committee thinks appropriate."

As with everything in our society the work of Imtac has been hugely affected by the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19). In the short term this has meant that previous work programme tasks have been delayed and meetings and events have been postponed. This has had a knock on effect on this work programme which necessarily must remain flexible to accommodate circumstances as they emerge over the coming months.

Work Programme priorities 2020 / 21

With the longer-term picture uncertain the initial priority for Imtac must be to support our partners in Government, transport providers and others in responding to COVID-19. We also have a role in supporting our members and society as a whole. Now more than ever it is essential that Imtac prioritises engagement with older people, disabled people, carers and their organisations when undertaking its work.

It is equally important that in uncertain times the Committee prioritises and promotes key articles of the 'United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD)' through its work. Appendix 'A' contains a summary of the most relevant articles.

Given the extraordinary circumstances Imtac will have to be innovative and flexible in how it works, making full use of technology to reduce and replace the need for meetings and events where appropriate. It should be recognised that this could exclude some of our members who may be unable to obtain appropriate access to or be able to use the appropriate technology.

Core Work Programme Tasks

Imtac routinely undertakes a number of core tasks including:

- Responding to consultations
- Responding to requests for advice and information from our stakeholders
- Raising issues relevant to older people and disabled people with our stakeholders
- Distributing information about services and policies to our stakeholders
- Holding an open and accessible recruitment process for members of Imtac each year
- Consulting on our work programme each year
- Providing training and support to members
- Holding at least 4 meetings each year
- Submitting a report annually in June to the Minister for Infrastructure outlining its achievements and advice to the Minister on transport matters that affect older people and disabled people as the committee think appropriate
- Other measures to involve a wide range of older people and disabled people in the work areas of Imtac

As with all aspects of this year's Work Programme it is anticipated that COVID-19 will impact on these core tasks, with timeframes and frequency of meetings being subject to changes. This may be

significant in respect of our recruitment process and we will be looking at how this can be dealt with.

2020 / 21 Work Programme Tasks

Supporting the COVID-19 response

Task 1

Imtac will prioritise providing advice and support to its partners in Government and the transport sector in their response to dealing with COVID-19. The Committee will also ensure that its resources are used to support the community especially older people and disabled people. Activities will include:

- Encouraging inclusive and accessible walking, wheeling and cycling measures through participation in the Departmental Walking and Cycling Advisory Group.

Developing policy and research papers

Task 2

In recognition of the limitations placed on its work by the impact of COVID-19 Imtac will prioritise the development of key policy and research papers including the completion of work begun as part of the 2019 / 20 Work Programme. These papers include:

- Completion of a report looking at the Strangford Lough Ferry Service
- Completion of a report following the Imtac Pedestrian Workshop in February 2020
- Completion of a report looking at rural and urban demand responsive transport services and wider travel connectivity
- Completion of a research proposal examining to what extent current Health Trust Wheelchair Services contribute to better travel opportunities for disabled people and older people
- Revising and updating the Imtac Policy Paper on Taxis, published in 2008

- Undertaking and reporting on an assessment of the accessibility of current railway and bus stations using a methodology similar to that used in a recent report from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC)

Supporting key project development

Task 3

Imtac will continue to provide support and advice to a number of key infrastructure and other projects. Initial work will be required to identify with partners the potential impact of COVID-19 on each of the projects listed below and to give priority to those projects where input from the Committee does not involve physical meetings or site visits. Projects include:

- The Belfast Transport Hub
- Yorkgate and Lurgan railway station developments
- The Translink Ticketing Project
- The Translink Website Project
- The Pilot of Audio Visual on Goldline services
- Public realm schemes
- Future bus and rail vehicle purchases

Supporting innovation and improvement

Task 4

Imtac will continue to work with Translink and others to support initiatives that result in more inclusive and accessible policy and services. Initial work will be required to identify the potential impact of COVID-19 on each of the tasks listed below and to give priority to those projects where input from the Committee does not involve physical meetings or events. Tasks include:

- Completing work to update the current Translink Access and Stations and Facilities Guide
- Progressing a Translink campaign to highlight the importance of priority seating

- Organising a Disability Equality Showcase event for partners in Government

Promoting engagement

Task 5

Despite the current difficulties Imtac is committed to engaging with disabled people, older people, carers and others. Where practical the Committee will seek to do this through means other than physical meetings or events. Priorities for engagement include:

- The completion of the task associated with engagement with the Deaf community
- Engagement specifically with the 11 local Councils
- Engagement with other UK advisory bodies through the Accessibility 4 Nations (A4N) forum

Review and revision of this Work Programme

Given the extraordinary times it is proposed that this year's Work Programme will be reviewed by Imtac and the Department at the end of each quarter, with revisions made subject to the agreement of both parties.

Appendix A – Key Articles of UNCRPD

Although each Article of the UNCRPD is important the Committee will prioritise the following Articles through its work:

Article 8 – Awareness raising – adopt measures that raise awareness and respect for the rights of disabled people, combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices and promotes awareness of the capabilities and contributions of disabled people.

Article 9 Accessibility – ensure barriers that disabled people face in buildings, the outdoors, transport, information, communications and services are eliminated and that these apply to people living in both urban and rural areas.

Article 20 Personal mobility – ensure disabled people can move around with the greatest possible independence.

Article 21 Freedom of expression and opinion and access to information – ensure disabled people have the same right as other people to give and receive information.

Article 29 Participation in political and public life – encourage disabled people to be involved in the work of Government and to participate in public affairs.

Article 31 Statistics and data collection – collect and look at statistics and other information that puts the UNCRPD into practice.