

**Draft Minutes of the
122nd Imtac Meeting**

Date: 12th December 2017, The Mount, Belfast

Present: G. Max O'Brien (Chairperson)

Paul McCloskey, Brian Murray, Jean Dunlop, Vivien Blakely, David McDonald, Joe Kenny, Sheelagh McRandal, Dave Morton.

Observers: Ciarán Crilly (DfI), Terry Butler (Translink), Jenny Robinson & Scott Kennerley (both Consumer Council), Naomi Roberts (Equality Commission).

In Attendance: Bert Bailie (Co-opted Business Group member), Patrick Malone (Disability Action).

Secretariat: Michael Lorimer

1. Introductions, apologies and consideration of absences

1.1 Apologies were given and accepted from Henry Mayne, Diane Marks, Sam Bell, Moira Heap, Nan Carville, Jim Nash, Ursula Marshall, Anne Tohill, Francis Hughes, and Ann Gamble.

2. Minutes of previous meetings/matters arising

2.1 The minutes of the 120th Imtac meeting held on the 6th September 2017 were agreed.

Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal Seconded: Vivien Blakely

2.2 Subject to an addition to the list of apologies the minutes of the 121st Imtac meeting held on the 14th October 2017 were agreed.

Proposed: David McDonald Seconded: Joe Kenny

2.3 Max informed the Committee that the Annual Report has been finalised and will be submitted to the Permanent Secretary with a request to meet with the Business Group.

2.4 Max informed members that the proposed meeting with Kevin Doherty of Disability Action did not take place.

Action: Michael to contact Kevin and rearrange the meeting if required.

3. UNCRPD inquiry into the UK Government

3.1 Patrick Malone from Disability Action briefed members on the background to the UNCRPD and the investigation undertaken by the UN Committee into the UK Government. Patrick informed members the Committee had made 80 recommendations and highlighted those of particular interest to Northern Ireland.

3.2 Terry Butler indicated that the notice requirement on some Translink services is 24 hours.

3.3 Max thanked Patrick for his briefing and asked him to forward more details about the 80 recommendations.

4. ATS 2025 and Observer updates

4.1 Ciarán informed members the ATS is ready for consultation with Imtac but the current political situation has prevented the Department from sharing with members at today's meeting. The Department will seek to make progress in the New Year.

4.2 Ciarán explained delays to the proposed purchase of a communication system for Imtac meetings. Members agreed it was vital that any system should be tested for suitability prior to purchase.

- 4.3 Terry informed members about recent and proposed bus purchases including a number of low-floor double decked coaches for use on the 212 service.
- 4.4 Members raised concerns about the text size used on new passenger information screens installed in Bangor and Coleraine bus stations.
Action: Michael to follow up with Terry.
- 4.5 Jenny informed members that the reports on recent access audits undertaken by the Consumer Council should be cleared for publication in January 2018. A request has been received from City of Derry Airport to undertake a further visit to look at access for people with hidden disabilities.
- 4.6 Jenny highlighted a current request for information from the Civil Aviation Authority about the experiences of people with hidden disabilities travelling by air.
Action: It was agreed to circulate details to members.
- 4.7 Members asked whether the Consumer Council would look at issues around access to DATS and rural transport services. Scott agreed to meet members and discuss.
Action: Scott and Michael to arrange meeting.
- 4.8 Naomi highlighted recent discussions between the Department for Infrastructure and the Equality Commission around the draft policy in relation to pavement café licensing. The Commission has recommended the Department to undertake further engagement with disabled people and older people.
- 4.9 Naomi informed members that through its role on UKIM, the Commission has been involved in writing to the UK Government to highlight key concerns arising from the recent outcome of the UN investigation around UNCRPD.

- 4.10 Naomi briefed members about a recent meeting between the Commission and the Department for Communities to discuss the Disability Strategy and Indicator 42 connected to the draft Programme for Government.

The meeting broke for lunch.

5. Current papers

- 5.1 Michael briefed members about the purpose and content of the proposed Accessibility Assessment Toolkit. Members raised a number of issues including the accessibility or otherwise of current bus stands when using vehicles with passenger lifts.

Action: Members to provide comments before the 8th January 2018.

- 5.2 Michael briefed members on the proposed changes to Imtac's position paper on shared spaces, published in 2009. Members raised a number of issues including clarifying the nature of the current CIHT review (page 4).

Action: Members to provide comments before the 8th January 2018.

6. Chairpersons and other updates

- 6.1 Max highlighted plans to update current guidelines for members around claiming expenses. It is proposed that new guidance will be included in information for new members following the next recruitment and will be circulated to all members.

- 6.2 Max asked the Committee to agree a proposal to further defer this years member recruitment whilst the website is finalised. This was agreed.

- 6.3 Bert updated members on progress around the two website projects. The Department for Finance is currently correcting a

number of bugs in the design of the proposed Imtac website after which it is hoped the site will go live. The Lottery Awards for All application for the second website has been approved, signed and will be submitted following today's meeting.

- 6.4 Members were asked to agree a response to a request from Lisburn and Castlereagh Council for the Committee to undertake an access audit of public realm works recently completed in Lisburn which were subject to a judicial review by a disabled person. Following discussion members unanimously agreed it was not appropriate for Imtac to undertake this work.
Proposed: Sheelagh McRandal Seconded: Brian Murray
- 6.5 Members were asked to consider three issues relating to the licensing of pavement cafes. These were (1) whether or not to continue with the complaint to the Equality Commission about Newry, Mourne and Down District Council following the request for and receipt of further information from the Council, (2) to clarify the position of Imtac in relation to minimum acceptable unobstructed pavement widths around pavement cafés in light of a recent meeting between members and DFI Roads officials, and (3) to agree a number of locations to undergo an audit of pavement café provision.
- 6.6 In response members agreed to continue with the complaint about NMDDC and to write to DFI Roads confirming that Imtac views 2m as the minimum acceptable unobstructed pavement width around pavement cafés. Members agreed that audits should take place in Belfast and Derry with other locations to be agreed based on the principle of involving members in the audits.
- 6.7 Michael updated members on developments in relation to public realm schemes, BRT/Glider, the Transport Hubs, Portrush and Central railway stations, the Review of the Department's Bus Stop Design Guide, the proposed Translink Accessibility Working Group, the Imtac assessment of NI Direct and the proposed survey around taxis.

6.6 Michael updated members on a consultation by the Department into Graduated Driver Licensing.

Action: Michael to circulate details to members in the New Year.

6.7 Members agreed that the principles relating to cycling discussed at the last Imtac meeting be drafted into a short position paper.

Action: Michael to draft and circulate for comment.

7. Any other business

7.1 Members from the North West raised concerns about the ending of concessionary travel on the Airporter service. During discussions members raised wider issues around the role of independent bus providers in providing public transport services.

Action: It was agreed to contact the Department to request clarification regarding the situation regarding concessionary travel on Airporter and to seek clarification around what measures in relation to accessibility are required by the Department when issuing a licence to commercial bus operators.

8. Date of future meetings

8.1 Max proposed that provisionally meetings should be held on the 2nd Wednesday of March, June, September and December.

Action: Michael to confirm provisional dates for 2018.

8.2 It was proposed and agreed by members to explore holding a public meeting and a members development meeting before the end of March 2018.

Action: Michael to confirm dates, times and venues.