



Imtac Work Programme 2019/20

(May 2019)

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 cassette or CD
- Daisy disc
- 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:

Michael Lorimer
Imtac
Titanic Suites
55-59 Adelaide Street
Belfast BT2 8FE

Telephone/Textphone: 028 9072 6020

Email: info@imtac.org.uk

Twitter: @ImtacNI

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.”

Imtac routinely undertakes a number of core tasks. These core tasks include:

- 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 in June each year 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

Work Programme priorities 2019/20

Three key priorities have influenced the tasks included in Imtac's work programme for 2018/19.

1 *The United Nation Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities*

As the UK is a signatory, Government Departments in Northern Ireland have obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to ensure equality for disabled people. Raising awareness of the UNCRPD and assisting Government to meet their obligations under the Convention, particularly with respect to access to transport, is a priority for Imtac. Although each Article of the Convention 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.

2 Involving disabled people and older people in its work

Imtac firmly advocates that disabled people and older people themselves are best placed to advise Government and others on issues that affect their lives. It is a priority for the Committee to involving wider groups of disabled people and older people in the delivery of this work programme.

3 Developing as a Committee

Imtac is committed to delivering the best advice possible to Government and others. In 2018/19 the Committee established a specific working group to take forward detailed work with Translink. Imtac will continue to examine new ways that can help maximise the impact of its work and support its members to deliver the best outcomes for older people and disabled people

Work Programme tasks 2019/20

Improving accessibility

Task 1

Imtac will provide advice on inclusive vehicle design including:

- The Translink Bus Purchase programme
- Developing a policy paper to encourage best practice for operators of small buses (9-22 seats)

Task 2

Imtac will provide advice on key public transport infrastructure projects including:

- The Belfast Transport Hub
- The North West Transport Hub
- Yorkgate railway station

Task 3

Imtac will provide advice on the implementation of the next stages of the Translink Ticketing Replacement Project.

Task 4

Imtac will provide advice on measures to enhance accessibility issues through the Commercial Bus Permit Scheme application process.

Task 5

Imtac will provide advice around potential improvements to the application and renewal process for the Concessionary Fares Scheme.

Task 6

Imtac will provide advice around proposals for the development of public realm schemes across Northern Ireland including Banbridge, Dromore, Killyleagh, Portaferry, Maghera and Pomeroy.

Task 7

Imtac will provide an assessment of the current accessibility of the Rathlin and Strangford ferry services supported by the Department for Infrastructure and make recommendations for improvement.

Task 8

Imtac will provide advice and support for initiatives that improve alternative transport services used by older people and disabled people including:

- Improvements to taxi services particularly relating to wheelchair accessible vehicles
- Examining future options for rural and urban demand responsive services

Access to information

Task 9

Imtac will provide advice and support initiatives to ensure that disabled people and older people can access online information about transport and travel services. Task to include:

- Enhancing the content of the Translink website
- Updating the content of the NI Direct website
- Developing the proposed Imtac “Accessible Travel Hub”

Task 10

Imtac will provide detailed advice to Translink on the redesign of its website.

Task 11

The Translink Accessibility Working Group will undertake a review of the current Translink Access Guide, Station Facilities Guide and Access Policy and make recommendations for improvement.

Awareness raising

Task 12

The Translink Accessibility Working Group will develop proposals for awareness raising initiatives for Translink services including:

- Promoting respect for priority seating on buses, coaches and trains including for people with hidden impairments
- Examine options for simplifying the promotion and use of awareness cards on Translink services

Task 13

Imtac will identify opportunities to extend the provision of Disability Equality Training to all staff involved in the development and delivery of transport policies and services.

Task 14

Imtac will provide advice and support initiatives that raise awareness of the impact of pavement clutter on the lives of disabled people and older people including:

- Promoting an accessible and inclusive pavement café licensing regime
- Promoting a zero tolerance approach to A Boards on pavements
- Highlighting the negative impact of road works and development on pedestrians

Encouraging participation in public life

Task 15

Imtac will seek to develop activities aimed at increasing the participation of more disabled people and older people in its work and wider policy and service development including:

- Broadening the membership of the Translink Accessibility Working Group
- Holding public meetings at locations around Northern Ireland
- Exploring new engagement and participation events including a Mystery Shopper scheme, Regional Fora and Give “it” a Go days

Statistics and data collection

Task 16

Imtac will provide advice and support to the Department in undertaking a survey around the attitudes of older people and disabled people to Concessionary Fares.

Task 17

Imtac will repeat the parking survey of Blue Badge use in Belfast City Centre to gauge the impact of recent changes.

Developing as a Committee

Task 18

Imtac will explore mechanisms to support its members in order to strengthen the quality of advice given by the Committee including:

- Piloting two members Information & Development days during the coming year
- Developing a Language and Style Guide to be used by Imtac members and the Secretariat

Completion of 2018/19 Tasks

Task 19

Imtac will complete outstanding tasks from its 2018/19 Work Programme including:

- Undertake engagement events targeted at Deaf people and people with hearing impairment
- Develop a research proposal examining to what extent current Health Trust Wheelchair Services contribute to better travel opportunities for disabled people and older people

Delivery and Monitoring Progress

Imtac will undertake these tasks and monitor progress of each in the next year. To ensure that it complies with its work programme Imtac will submit quarterly updates to the Department for review. . These will be published in July, October, January and April and will provide details of progress made under each task and plans for the future. As Imtac relies on working with others and has limited resources sometimes it cannot progress some tasks as quickly as the Committee would want. The Committee will highlight where and why tasks may be delayed in its updates.