



Imtac Work Programme 2021 / 2022

(May 2021)

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 Deaf people, 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:

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

Telephone/Textphone: 028 9072 6020

Email: info@imtac.org.uk

Website: www.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 carers and key transport professionals. Its role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of Deaf people, disabled people and older people.

The aim of Imtac is to ensure that Deaf people, 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 every organisation Imtac has had to adapt in response to COVID-19 situation. We all hope that we are now emerging from the pandemic, but we recognise the continued need to be flexible in how we plan our work, responding to changing circumstances if required.

Work Programme priorities 2021 / 22

During the past year the priority for our work has been supporting Deaf people, disabled people, older people and our partners in Government and the transport sector in responding to the pandemic. It is our fervent desire that this year our priority will be supporting the emergence from COVID-19, ensuring that accessibility and inclusion are given equal prominence as issues such as sustainability and tackling climate change in the efforts to “build back better”.

In providing advice to Government and others Imtac will prioritise the importance of understanding the social model, illustrating it is the decisions taken by society that disables people not their impairment. We will promote and prioritise the importance of inclusive design in ensuring that investment by Government and others benefits everyone. Finally,

but just as important, we will promote and prioritise the rights of Deaf people, disabled people and others to access transport and the built environment on an equal basis to others. In doing so we will highlight where existing legal requirements are not being met as well as highlighting wider Government obligations under the Articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Appendix A contains reference to the most relevant articles.

One area of the work of Imtac that has been necessarily curtailed during the last year was our engagement with Deaf people, disabled people, older people and other stakeholders. Engagement and involvement have always been key priorities, central to the ethos and work of the Committee. A priority in the coming year will be to re-establish and rejuvenate this work, taking account of any ongoing restrictions created by the pandemic. We will also seek to maximise opportunities to raise awareness of our work through our website and our social media platforms. Drawing on our experiences of the last year, any future engagement events run by Imtac will offer the opportunity for people to participate remotely / virtually.

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

2021 / 22 Work Programme Tasks

1 *Emerging from the pandemic*

Task one

We recognise the unique challenges faced by Deaf people, disabled people and older people in emerging from the pandemic, including the need to reassure people that resuming travel is safe. We will work with our partners in Government Departments, local councils, Translink and the wider travel sector to ensure the requirements of Deaf people, disabled people and older people are a key consideration as services return to normal.

Task two

We believe the pandemic should be an opportunity to reset our approach to how we design policy and services moving forward, raising standards to ensure that opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion are maximised. To inform this approach Imtac will publish advice on key priorities in the following areas:

- Bus and train services
- Taxi services
- Community & Demand Responsive Transport
- Active travel (walk, wheel and cycle)
- Place making, public realm and the built environment
- Private transport and parking

2 *Influencing strategy, policy and projects*

Task three

The Committee will continue to seek to ensure that accessibility and inclusion is embedded in the design and implementation of major strategies and policies. This year input to the following will be a key priority:

- The formulation and publication of a Disability Strategy by the Department of Communities

- The development of the new Belfast Metropolitan, North West and Sub Regional Transport plans
- The review of the current Public Service Agreement between the Department and Translink
- The development of policy to promote sustainability / meet climate change objectives including the Blue Green Infrastructure Fund
- The review of the reference wheelchair and Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) by the UK Government
- The implementation of the Belfast Cycling Network Plan
- Post Brexit travel for people travelling with assistance dogs

Task four

The Committee will continue to seek to ensure that accessibility and inclusion is embedded into the design and implementation of major projects. This year the following are key priorities:

- Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) Phase 2
- Translink infrastructure development including the Belfast Transport Hub, other station improvements and Park & ride provision
- Translink Ticketing Project
- Bus purchase programmes
- Translink Transforming Travel and Social Inclusion Project
- Lagan pedestrian / cycle bridge
- Public realm schemes including Streets Ahead Phase 5

3 *Supporting innovation in policy and service developments*

Task five

The Committee will continue to encourage and support innovation in policy and service developments which enhance accessibility and inclusion. This year the following are key priorities:

- The development of proposals to tackle pavement parking
- Updating the content of the NI Direct website
- Improving the application process for Concessionary Fares
- Improving the administration of Commercial Bus Permits
- Trial of low-floor coaches and minibuses including meaningful user testing with Deaf people, disabled people and older people

- Trials of initiatives that promote walking, wheeling and cycling in towns and cities such as parklets
- The development of a consistent approach to regulation of pavement cafes and other pavement clutter

4 Promoting engagement

Task six

We will continue active participation in existing fora to promote accessibility and inclusion and to share expertise. These include:

- The Accessibility 4 Nations Group (A4N)
- The Disability Strategy Co-Design Group
- The Walking and Cycling Advisory Group
- The Strategic Design Group
- The UNCRPD Independent Monitoring Mechanism Disability Forum

Task seven

We will develop and implement proposals to restart and rejuvenate engagement to involve more Deaf people, disabled people, older people and carers in our work.

Task eight

We will specifically engage with two stakeholder groups to promote the benefits of working with Imtac. These are:

- Local councils
- Departmental business areas currently underrepresented in our work

5 Developing as a Committee

The Committee hope to resume normal Committee and working group meetings as soon as it is safe to do so (we will continue to offer remote / virtual participation in all our meetings).

Task nine

The Committee has identified the following training it will provide to assist members:

- Disability Equality Training (we will also make this available to representatives from key stakeholder organisations)
- Governance training

Review and revision of this Work Programme

Given the future continues to be uncertain our Work Programme covers a very wide range of issues, some of which may only proceed slowly while other projects may arise requiring our input more urgently. It 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.