



Imtac Work Programme 2014/15

April 2014

Imtac is committed to make information about our work accessible. Details of how we can do this and how to contact us 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

We will also provide information about our work in other languages if you require this.

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 us

Imtac is a committee of disabled people and older people as well as others including key transport professionals. Our role is to advise Government and others in Northern Ireland on issues that affect the mobility of older people and disabled people.

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

Imtac receives support from the Department for Regional Development.

About our Work Programme

The role of Imtac was defined in the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) published by the Department for Regional Development in 2005. The ATS requires 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 think appropriate.”

Our work programme 2014/2015 reflects this requirement and is based on key issues identified through consultation with our stakeholders including disabled people, older people and their organisations, policy makers, transport providers and other key stakeholders including the Consumer Council and Equality Commission.

Imtac routinely undertakes a number of key tasks as requirements of the Accessible Transport Strategy as well as assisting Government deliver key actions arising out of the Strategy. These routine 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 a 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 of Imtac each year including this year a meeting outside Belfast
- Submitting a report in June each year to the Minister for Regional Development outlining our 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 2014/15– key themes

Transport and mobility plays a key role in enabling us all to participate fully in society. In developing and publishing the Accessible Transport Strategy (ATS) (2005) Government in Northern Ireland has recognised the specific barriers that make travel difficult for older and disabled people. More recently the publication of the “Strategy to improve the lives of people with disabilities” by the Northern Ireland Executive recognised transport and personal mobility as key issues for disabled people here. In addition Government in Northern Ireland has obligations under the articles of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Key articles of UNCRPD cover accessibility (including transport), personal mobility, access to information, participation in public life and awareness raising.

As a Committee of disabled people and older people Imtac is a significant resource to Government in Northern Ireland. The Committee can assist Government here in meeting the commitments and obligations set out in the ATS, Executive Disability Strategy and UNCRPD. The tasks in our Work Programme are designed to reflect these commitments and obligations. We have taken great care to ensure that the task reflect the Strategic Priorities, policies and current Action Plan of the Accessible Transport Strategy. Each task also reflects either a Strategic Priority or a key mechanism of delivery of the Disability Strategy. Finally each task is closely aligned with one or more of the articles of UNCRPD.

We have grouped tasks in the current Work Programme under the following key themes:

- Statistics and Data Collection
- Accessibility
- Awareness raising
- Access to information

- Participation

Under each theme in the work programme we have detailed how the tasks link to the ATS, Disability Strategy and UNCRPD.

Work Programme 2014/2015 tasks

Theme one – Statistics and Data Collection

It is essential that we gather more information and evidence about what makes travel difficult for older people and disabled people. Policy 8 of the ATS commits Government here to improve the factual base of transport issues for older and disabled people. The current ATS Action Plan contains actions relating to specific research reflected in the tasks below. The Disability Strategy makes clear that the Strategic Priorities of the Strategy can only be delivered through more effective collection of statistics and data. Finally Article 31 of the UNCRPD requires Governments to collect statistics and data to enable implementation of the Convention.

Task 1

Imtac will conduct a survey of the attitudes of disabled people and older people to public transport. We will work with DRD and NISRA to develop a report on our findings by December 2014.

Task 2

Imtac will examine evidence from Great Britain of levels of misuse and fraud of the Blue Badge Scheme. We will develop a report highlighting implications for Northern Ireland by October 2014.

Task 3

Imtac will work with DRD to progress proposed research into transport issues for younger disabled people. We plan to agree a way forward with DRD by June 2014.

Theme two – Accessibility

Strategic Objectives 2 and 3 of the ATS relate specifically to accessibility issues. The tasks we have identified relate specifically to Policy 12 of the ATS and supports actions in the current Action Plan. Strategic Priority 7 of the Disability Strategy

relates specifically to accessibility and travel. Finally Article 9 of the UNCRPD requires Governments to address issues around accessibility.

Task 4

Following the completion of seven walking audits in towns and cities across Northern Ireland Imtac will produce a report highlighting the key accessibility issues emerging from all audits undertaken. We will produce this report by June 2014.

Task 5

Imtac will identify two towns in Northern Ireland where public realm improvements are planned. Using the lessons learned from previous walking audits we will work with all stakeholders to ensure that improvements made maximise benefits for older people and disabled people.

Theme three – Awareness Raising

Strategic Objective 5 of the ATS relates specifically to awareness raising and attitudinal change. Policy 24 commits to challenging public attitudes to disabled people and older people. Policy 25 commits to raising awareness amongst older people and disabled people themselves. The tasks below link directly to these sections of the ATS and additionally to Policy 6 (training for transport staff). Strategic Priorities 3 and 4 of the Disability Strategy relate specifically to awareness raising amongst the general public and disabled people. Article 8 of UNCRPD requires Government to take immediate action around awareness raising. Task 9 of our Work Programme also relates to Article 20 of UNCRPD concerning personal mobility.

Task 6

Imtac will seek to work with Translink to develop a poster campaign to (1) raise awareness of the accessibility of public transport amongst disabled people and older people and (2)

challenge public stereotypes of disabled people. We plan to agree a way forward with Translink by June 2014.

Task 7

Imtac will seek to work with DRD to raise awareness about the responsibilities of Blue Badge holders. We plan to agree actions on how to achieve this by September 2014.

Task 8

Following on from the Imtac report Survey of Disability Training Provision by Transport Providers in NI we will hold a workshop involving disabled people, older people, transport providers and policy makers examining future options around training relating to disabled people. We will publish a report highlighting the key outcomes of the workshop. We plan to complete this work by March 2015.

Task 9

Imtac will work with DRD to examine options for improving the provision of travel training schemes. We plan to agree and implement actions on this task by March 2015.

Theme four – Access to Information

Strategic Objective 6 and policies 27,28 and 29 of the ATS relate specifically to access to information. The task below link directly to these sections of the ATS and will address actions in the current Action Plan relating to older people and people with learning disability. Strategic Priority 7 of the Disability Strategy relates specifically to access to information. Finally Article 21 of the UNCRPD requires action on freedom of expression and access to information.

Task 10

Imtac will undertake an assessment of the current provision of information about transport services measured against policies

27,28 and 29 of the ATS. We plan to produce a report on this assessment with recommendations for change by December 2014.

Theme five – Participation

Policies 3 and 4 of the ATS commit Government to early engagement with Imtac and more broadly with disabled people and older people when developing policy and services. This commitment is reflected in the current ATS Action Plan. Strategic Priority 1 of the Disability Strategy relates to participation and active citizenship particularly in relation to Government policy and programmes. Finally Article 29 on UNCRPD requires Governments to remove barriers to the participation of disabled people in public life.

Task 11

Imtac will continue to provide on-going advice to Government and others on a broad range of policy and service developments relating to the mobility of disabled people and older people. In particular the Committee expect early engagement around the following issues:

- Successor arrangements to the Accessible Transport Strategy
- Emerging proposals for the future of flexible transport services including the interim Disability Action service and rural Dial-a-lift
- Changes to the Blue Badge Scheme in Northern Ireland
- The implementation of the Taxis Act 2008
- The transport and mobility implications of Welfare Reform
- Improvements to the accessibility of public transport including the purchase of new vehicles. improvements to

infrastructure and initiatives such as audio visual information on buses

Delivery and Monitoring Progress

All tasks will be undertaken by Imtac in the next year. Each task will be allocated to one of Imtac's three working groups. Each working group will identify and agree the best way to achieve each task.

To ensure that we monitor progress on each of tasks in our work programme Imtac will publish a quarterly update. These will be published in July, October, January and April. The quarterly update will provide details of progress made under each task and plans for the future. Because we work with others and have limited resources sometimes we cannot progress some tasks as quickly as we would want. We will highlight where and why tasks may be delayed in our updates. We will publish updates on our website and distribute to our key stakeholders.