



Imtac Work Programme 2012/2013

April 2012

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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Introduction

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Imtac receives support from the Department for Regional Development.

About our Work Programme

- 4 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.”
- 5 Our work programme 2012/2013 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.
- 6 Imtac routinely undertakes a number of key tasks as requirements of the Accessible Transport 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
- 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 Tasks 2012/2013

- 7 Imtac will continue to have significant ongoing input into a number of current key policy areas during 2012/13. These issues will be dealt with as required by the appropriate working group or main committee. These policy areas include:
- Changes to public realm and traffic management in Belfast City Centre and other centres of population
 - Shared space including the provision of pedestrian and cycling facilities
 - The implementation of the Taxis Act 2008

- Public Transport Reform
- Belfast Rapid Transport
- Enforcement of Blue Badge misuse
- Audio visual information on buses
- Flexible transport solutions
- Travel training programmes
- European aviation and maritime regulations

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

Personal Mobility Group

Task 1 – Highlighting barriers to the pedestrian environment

Why: People tell us that barriers in the pedestrian environment make everyday journeys very difficult. Last year we published a report on the key barriers to the pedestrian environment experienced by disabled people.

What: Working with Guide Dogs we will look at barriers in a number of town centres across Northern Ireland. We will develop reports based on our findings and talk to Roads Service about resolving the issues.

When: We plan to have completed five reports by March 2013.

Task 2 – Promote measures that make it easier for disabled people and to older people to park

Why: The car is essential for the mobility of many older people and disabled people but often journeys are ruined by abuse and misuse of parking bays

What: We will revise and republish a good practice guide for service providers in providing and managing accessible parking

We will also develop a report highlighting the level of on-street Blue Badge use based on surveys in Belfast and a number of other locations

When: We plan to have the Guide finished by December 2012 and the report finished by September 2012

Public Transport Group

Task 3 – Highlight opportunities to improve the accessibility of public transport for disabled people and older people

Why: Public transport services have improved remarkably over the past decade. However usage by disabled people remains low despite investment.

What: We will publish a report highlighting the significant improvements made to public transport over the past decade as well as highlighting the challenges for the future

We will work with Translink to improve the provision of audio information at stations

When: We plan to have the report finished by December 2012 and progress with audio information by March 2013

Information and Training Group

Task 4 – Highlight opportunities to improve the provision of travel information

Why: People tell us that getting accurate and accessible information about transport services is often difficult and that this can making using services difficult

What: We will work with officials to improve the accessibility and content of the NI Direct website

We will work with Translink to revise the current Access Guide to services

We will work with DRD, Translink and others to implement actions contained in our report “Improving travel information for older people and disabled people – an update”

When: We plan to have this work finished by March 2013

Task 5 – Highlight opportunities to improve training for staff involved in the provision of transport services

Why: The attitudes of staff can be a barrier to people using transport services

What: We will undertake an audit of training currently provided by key transport providers around

disabled and older passengers. We will publish a report with recommendations for improvement.

When: We plan to have the report finished by December 2012

Developing an evidence base

Task 6 – Identify research opportunities to improve the evidence around barriers that make travel difficult for older people and disabled people

Why: It is important the advice Imtac gives is backed up by evidence and that the Committee identify areas where further research is required.

What: We will complete our research into disabled people and older people attitudes to public transport

We will complete research into transport issues for younger disabled people

We will discuss with DRD and others future research priorities

We will investigate additional sources of funding to support our research programmes

When: We plan to have the report on attitudes completed by December 2012 and the report on younger disabled people completed by March 2013

Monitoring Progress

9 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.