



Department for Infrastructure (NI) Disability Action Plan 2017

This plan is reviewed biannually and updates on Action Measures are included in the Equality Unit's progress reports to the Departmental Board.

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Disability Action Plan 2017

Under Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is required when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life („the disability duties“).

Under Section 49B of the DDA 1995, the Department is also required to submit to the Equality Commission a Disability Action Plan showing how it proposes to fulfil these duties in relation to its functions.

This document is available in a range of formats on request and you should contact us with your requirements.

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Measures to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people

Action Measures	Timescale	Performance Indicators/ target	Staff Contact
1. Development of a new Accessible Transport Strategy Action Plan.	2017	Engagement with disability organisations and groups in relation to development and implementation of the Accessible Transport Strategy action plan	Anne Tohill
2. To consider how to meet the transport needs of disabled people in the future.	Annually	Monitoring of the number of complaints received on interim service delivered by Disability Action takes place on an annual basis.	Billy McLarnon
	Ongoing	As part of the Integrated Passenger Transport Project, work with users, carers, operators and other stakeholders through a co-design approach to integrate specialist health and education transport services with demand-responsive services funded by DfI. The aim is to complete design of Strand 2 for first service delivery area by autumn 2017 and start implementation of first phase by December 2017 in the Southern area.	Sean Johnston
3. Development of the detailed design and implementation for Belfast Rapid Transit to ensure the system is accessible to all.	Ongoing	Engagement with disability organisations and groups in relation to detailed design and implementation of Belfast Rapid Transit, in particular accessibility issues around the design of the halts and vehicles used. Meetings of the Stakeholder Forum take place quarterly basis.	Lindsay Rainey

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4. The Department will support IMTAC as a source of independent advice on the transport needs of disabled and older people to secure engagement with disabled people in the design and development of polices.	Annually (March)	Work programme agreed annually with IMTAC which reflects Government priorities and provides funding.	Anne Tohill
	Quarterly	IMTAC work programme monitored through quarterly updates.	Anne Tohill
5. Implementation of changes identified during the 2013 Review of Blue Badge scheme.	2017	Relevant legislation amended to take account of any agreed changes to the Blue Badge Scheme	Seán McConnell
		Changes to the Blue Badge scheme as a result of the 2013 review implemented and monitored. Legislation amended re the fee increase.	Seán McConnell
6. A review of the Blue Badge Scheme re-application process for citizens with life long disabilities affecting their mobility.	2017	Proposal(s) made to the Minister on the findings of the 2017 review.	Seán McConnell
7. DVA will help improve the mobility of 16 year old applicants who are in receipt of PIPs by allowing them to apply for a driving licence up to two months prior to their 16 th birthday. Availability of this scheme is advertised on NIDirect and on the DL1 application form.	Annual	Annual uptake figures are published for information.	Fionnuala Donnelly
8. To provide road safety advice and	2018	To provide road safety advice and guidance to all	Chris

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guidance to all special schools in the north of Ireland on a yearly basis.		special schools using show and tell demonstrations and fun activities in keeping with the pupils ability to learn.	McLaughlin
9. Promote and encourage the planning of well designed places which are accessible and inclusive places for all.	Ongoing	Identify measures and activities by working together with Strategic Design Group members to promote inclusive, successful, sustainable, well designed places which will have a positive impact on people's lives.	Joy Hargie
10. To promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability within the Department.	Ongoing	Staff complete mandatory online Diversity Now e-learning once every three years. Business as Usual.	NICS HR ²
	Ongoing	Investigate training options and sources of guidance on best practice. Business as Usual.	Gabrielle Kerr
	By March 2018	Staff informed on disability issues at least twice a year through the Department's intranet site by Equality Unit, and DfI Disability Liaison Officer. Business as Usual.	Gabrielle Kerr / DLO
	Ongoing	Details of Disability Liaison Officer (who acts as a point of contact for staff with disabilities and managers who have staff with disabilities) are published on the Intranet site. Articles are provided for the intranet highlighting current disability issues. As disability related events arise throughout the year these are published on the Intranet site.	DLO

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	Ongoing	Practical work based information for managers of staff with a disability, and for staff with a disability available on intranet.	NICS HR ²
11. The Department will review ways of ensuring that information on services is both inclusive and accessible.	Annually (November).	The Guide to Making Information Accessible is reviewed and updated annually to ensure it reflects best practice is part of a jobholders normal duties. The updated Guide is circulated annually to staff and Disability organisations	Gabrielle Kerr
	Annually	Complete an accessibility audit of the intranet & internet to ensure they comply with best practice with regard to accessibility.	Geraldine Campbell
	Annually by March	Monitor number of customer complaints in relation to access to information on services. Business as Usual.	Gabrielle Kerr
12. To nominate staff to represent the Department on relevant disability representative groups.	Annually	A member of staff is a member of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Northern Ireland Vision Strategy Implementation Group, chaired by Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB). ▪ Sign Language Partnership Group. ▪ Southern Health Trust Day Opportunity Multi-agency Forum. ▪ Belfast Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership. Business as Usual.	Anne Tohill Gabrielle Kerr Michael Deery Anne Tohill
	Ongoing	Representatives to provide feedback on best practice to Equality Unit and business areas.	Gabrielle Kerr

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13. Demonstrate evidence of monitoring of this Plan and the Department's ongoing commitment to the Disability Duties.	Biannually	Plan is reviewed biannually and status on progress of Action Measures updated and included in the Equality Unit's biannual report to the Departmental Board and Minister in line with requirements of the Equality Scheme.	Gabrielle Kerr
	Annually	Report progress to Equality Commission. Business as Usual	Gabrielle Kerr
	Biannually/ annually	Consult with Equality Working Group & Equality Forum	Gabrielle Kerr
	Annually	Monitor number of formal complaints on disability issues, including those satisfactorily resolved, to review effectiveness of DAP and identify potential further action points.	NICS HR ²
14. To encourage more disabled people to apply for public appointments. (Business as Usual)	Ongoing	Reflect best practice on Diversity in departmental Public Appointment Procedures & training.	Dorcas Cutrona
	Ongoing	Notify disability representative groups when the Department is advertising for public appointments.	Dorcas Cutrona
	Annually	Annual meetings with Sponsor Divisions to review disability duties in the context of Public Appointments.	Dorcas Cutrona
	Ongoing	Monitor numbers of people with a disability applying for and appointed to Public Life appointments.	Dorcas Cutrona
	Ongoing	Provide input into the composition of a Diversity Strategic Action Plan being drafted by TEO to take forward and report on progress on the	Dorcas Cutrona

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		Executive's commitments to Equality in Public Appointments.	
15. Increase awareness of the Disability Duties and disability legislation of those who hold a public life position.	Ongoing	Encourage and deliver training on disability legislation and disability duties awareness to those in public life positions and involved with public appointments. Business as Usual.	Dorcas Cutrona
16. Encourage arm's length bodies and other partner bodies to promote positive attitudes and encourage participation in public life.	Ongoing	Minister to send a weblink for the Department's DAP to relevant bodies with a letter of encouragement regarding fulfilment of disability duties	Gabrielle Kerr

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