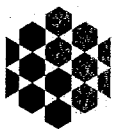


Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012

Consultation Response Questionnaire



Department for
**Regional
Development**

www.drdni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

Forbartha Réigiúnaí

MÄNNYSTRIE FÜR

Kintra Pairts Fordèrin

Consultation Response Questionnaire

Please use this form when responding to the questions on the Accessible Transport Strategy draft Action Plan 2009-2012.

We are seeking your comments and thoughts regarding your views on the ATS draft Action Plan 2009-2012. When making comments, you may continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

The consultation closes on 7th July 2009.

Please return the completed questionnaire to the below address:

Janet Watson
Mobility Inclusion Unit
Regional Planning & Transportation Division
Department for Regional Development
Room 3-01 Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8GB

Email us: atsinfo@drdni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9054 0580

Fax: 028 9054 0604

Textphone: 028 9054 0642

We would welcome any comments you may have on the content of the draft action plan. According to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) all information contained in your response may be subject to publication or disclosure. More information on this is contained within Annex A of this document.

Personal Information

To assist us in the collation and analysis of responses, please provide us with the following information, using block capitals:

Name: EILEEN McCULLOUGH

Organisation 'Can Do' Group, Portaferry

Position in organisation Chairman

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Question 1

Since the launch of the Accessible Transport Strategy in 2005 do you think the accessibility of the transport system for disabled people and older people has improved?

Yes

No

Question 2

Can you say why?

① Door-2-Door did not come to our rural areas

② Easibus is not in regular service in our rural area.

③ Poor communication about what is available

④ People are still dependant on family to get out & about in villages

⑤ Local Community Transport access is limited because lengthy travel time doesn't suit many disabled ^{people} & you have to plan for travel too far in advance.

⑥ Taxis are very expensive, especially when travelling outside the immediate locality.

⑦ Older people cannot avail of their free pass for travel because services are not available.

⑧ In general services finish too early in the evening. Young disabled people enjoy social life too!

Question 3

Has the improvement in the accessibility of public transport (i.e. accessible buses, trains, Door-2-Door services etc) increased the travel opportunities for disabled people and older people?

Yes

No

Question 4

Can you say why?

① For the same reasons as in Question 3

② We think that rural ^{areas} deserve the same services as people in town or cities.

Question 5

What are the remaining barriers to making public transport accessible for disabled people and older people?

① Little availability of appropriate, reasonably priced transport in our area. We would welcome a Door-2-Door service in our area.

② ~~There~~ No 'social' drivers at present in our area.

Question 6

How can these barriers be overcome?

① Make such transport available at reasonably prices.

② Be creative in making social driving attractive to people - eg subsidise^{ise} cost of purchasing a vehicle.

Question 7

The new ATS draft Action Plan includes new actions to improve the accessibility of transport, do you agree with them?

Our group agrees with the actions, particularly regarding ^{the} application of the Disability Discrimination Act. Cost of transport is important and above else please make services available in rural areas where people with disabilities are doubly isolated.

We believe good communication & good training of personnel is important.

Question 8

Are there any actions which have not been included within the draft Action Plan that you would like to see included?

Make more provision to improve numbers of social drivers.

Also please ensure you do listen to disabled people & older people. 'Can Do' would certainly send a representative to any planning meetings if transport was made available. We would love a speaker from Imtac.

Annex A

Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Confidentiality of Consultations

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public please include an explanation in your response.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see web site at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk).