

Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012

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Consultation Response Questionnaire



Department for
**Regional
Development**

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AN ROINN

Forbartha Réigiúnaí

MANNYSTRIE FUR

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: IVAN E. BAXTER

Organisation Age Sector Platform

Position in organisation Member of Exec. Ctee.

Address
.....
.....
.....

Postcode
.....

Phone Number
.....

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?

The trains + buses (some of them)
have improved access + ramps are now
being provided at railway stations
which are suitable for wheel chair use.

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?

One is a consequence of the other,
improved access equates improved opportunities
for travel.

Question 5

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

1. There are physical problems at many railway stations where getting from one platform to another would be virtually impossible in a wheel chair

2. Staff employed by transport organisations need to be more helpful.

Question 6

How can these barriers be overcome?

1. This will require investment of considerable sums of money

2. This issue can be addressed through training and, ultimately, the disciplinary procedures of the organisation

Question 7

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

Yes - as far as they go.

Q8 Cont :-

3. Where any new major public facility is being provided such as a Sports Stadium, Concert Hall etc the issue of public transport access (+ disabled access) should be addressed from the outset and should take priority (The Odyssey Centre + the New Terminal at the City Airport should have been much more easily accessible by rail!). It is still not too late to provide a rail link to Belfast International Airport.

Question 8

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

1. It has been suggested that employees in charge of transport policy should spend some time "walking through" various journeys to gain practical experience of the issues

2. It would be useful to include all transport providers including the 3 Airports (Belfast Int), (Belfast City) + (Derry) and the 2 Ferry Ports (Belfast + Larne) - at least as far as boarding the planes or ships

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).