

Accessible Transport Strategy Draft Action Plan 2009-2012

Consultation Response Questionnaire



Department for
**Regional
Development**

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Forbartha Réigiúnaí

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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:

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Regional Planning & Transportation Division
Department for Regional Development
Room 3-01 Clarence Court
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Email us: atsinfo@drdni.gov.uk

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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:

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Position in organisation	Director of Policy
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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?

Improved access to bus and train stations;

Improved access onto buses and trains;

Increased awareness of needs of disabled people accessing public transport;

More accessible transport stock available on the majority of routes;

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?

As before, but access is not equitable across the Province. Rural areas, in particular, still do not have Door 2 Door service or 'joined up' transport services.

As well as improvements to buses, trains and stations, it is essential that all staff involved in service delivery are trained in awareness of the range of needs of disabled people and older people when accessing the services and information.

Question 5

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

Audio and visual information on bus services compatible with the service provided on trains;

Attitudes of service providers, particularly on public bus routes;

A guarantee that the correct vehicle with appropriate equipment will be available for timetabled or onward journey.

Question 6

How can these barriers be overcome?

Staff training that is both meaningful and practical that includes enabling equipment to be fully utilised including lifts, clamps, etc. This also includes attitudes of drivers to be prepared to make use of lifts for all passengers requesting them.

Many improvements in the future will cost very little now that the stock has been upgraded.

Making information available that is timely, relevant and accessible to all.

Question 7

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

Yes. However, it is essential that the Accessible Transport Strategy is not combined with other transport policies.

It is essential that it is a 'stand alone' strategy, so that its achievements and actions can be monitored and successes measured and promoted.

Question 8

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

The need to work across departments to provide low kerbs, ramps, etc., at bus stops and in residential areas to enable potential transport passengers to access public areas and the public transport services.

Increase the areas to which Door 2 Door are available to provide their services

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).