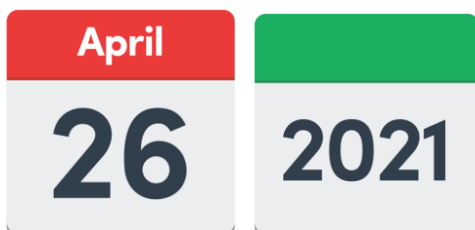




Accessibility 4 Nations Meeting Minutes

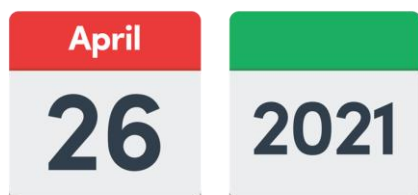


Easy Read



26 April 2021

Accessibility 4 Nations Meeting



26 April 2021 at 11am



It was an online meeting by computer.



Who was there?

MACS means the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland.

IMTAC means the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee.

DPTAC means the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.



From Scotland

- Linda Bamford – MACS
- David Hunter - MACS
- Hilary Stubbs – MACS
- Karen Armstrong – Transport Scotland

- John Maxwell – Transport Scotland
- Alexis Ferguson (Secretariat)

From Northern Ireland

- Michael Lorimer - IMTAC
- June Best – IMTAC
- Stuart Gilmore – Department for Infrastructure
- Sam Bell – IMTAC



From England

- Keith Richards – DPTAC
- Paul Nash – Department of Transport
- Rajesh Mistry – Department for Transport

Who could not come?

From Wales

- Suzanne Pomeroy – Welsh Government
- Bert Baillie - IMTAC



1 – Welcome



Linda was the Chairperson. She welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 - Are the minutes of the last meeting right?



Everyone agreed that the minutes of the meeting in October 2020 were right.

What actions still need doing from meetings in the past?

A letter will be sent to ask for changes to the Motability policy. The changes will help people with low wages.

Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK have different rules about travelling in the European Union with assistance dogs.

Things like pet passports need to be clearer and easier.



3 – Updates from each organisation about their work since October 2020

MACS Update

Linda said that MACS has:

- made a Strategic Plan and a Work Plan
- planned Development Days for April 2021 and August 2021
- had a Scoping Day in November 2020
- started having team sessions called 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' to hear guest speakers
- 6 new Committee members



Transport Scotland Update

Karen said that Transport Scotland has:



- written a progress report about the 2019-2020 Annual Delivery Plan
- listened to disabled people to find out what to focus on in the year ahead
- planned to make more people aware of Passenger Assistance
- planned to make more people aware of things that can help them plan their journeys
- planned to make disabled people's transport for medical appointments better
- planned to look at Demand Responsive Transport
- planned to give transport staff like drivers with training
- started planning ways to make rural transport better
- helped launch the Hate Crime Charter on 24 March 2021, which reached 55 thousand people on social media

- planned surveys to see how the Hate Crime Charter is helping

IMTAC Update

Michael said that IMTAC:

- has organised a meeting to try and ban parking on pavements
- is writing a Northern Ireland Disability Strategy
- is trying to get human rights into Scottish Government documents
- has met with Translink and Department for Infrastructure and Roads to talk about things like how vehicles are designed
- looking a new low floor coach design
- taken on new members



DPTAC Update

Keith said that DPTAC has:

- worked with the Department for Transport on things like face coverings and physical distancing
- written statements about face covering exemptions, rail replacement and home to school transport
- worked on the Wheelchair Reference Review and the Williams/Shapps Review
- organised a meeting with Network Rail to talk about making things like lighting and signs clearer after someone died





Department for Transport Update

Paul said that the Department for Transport has:

- worked on disability training and grant funding within the Inclusive Transport Strategy
- written a National Bus Strategy and a National Strategy for Disabled People
- organised a project called 'It's Everyone's Journey' to launch in May 2021 to help change people's behaviour when they go back to using public transport



4 - Are there any questions from the updates?



MACS said that provision for pavement parking might not happen until 2023 in Scotland.



DPTAC said they were hopeful about the Williams Review and what it may mean for the future.



IMTAC said they felt frustrated with the service agreement by Northern Ireland's public transport.

It is a chance to make accessibility and inclusion part of the process instead of adding it on at the end.



5 – Talk about the Updates



Changing Place facilities along journeys

IMTAC wants big new stations in Northern Ireland to put Changing Places in.

MACS say that Scotland has a map of all its Changing Place toilets. They will share it.

The Department for Transport said there is no law that Changing Place toilets must be put in.

But most motorway service stations now have them. And the Inclusive Transport Strategy aims to have Changing Places in place by 2030.



Cycling Routes and Bus Stops

IMTAC wants to know where there has been good work done by working together.

Northern Ireland said that they were working on this because there was often confusion about the rules for walkers, wheelers and cyclists sharing a route.

Active travel organisations have done these things:

- changed the routes
- changed the signs and rules
- made the Highway Code clearer
- made better cycling training
- used social media and newspapers to share the messages



MACS said that the Scottish Sustainable Transport Hierarchy puts walking and wheeling at the top of the list.

This means it is seen as important.

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) and Mobility As A Service (MaaS)

MACS said that Mobility As A Service is about making access to public transport easier for everyone.



Using public transport helps:

- use cars less
- put fewer emissions – like carbon dioxide – into the air

Digital tools like an app can help:

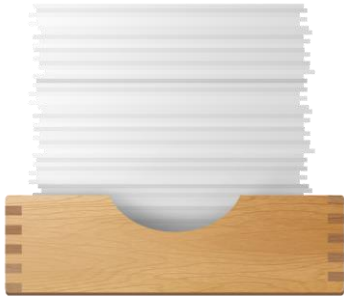
- give people travel information
- tailor information to someone's own needs
- plan a journey from start to finish
- people to buy smart tickets



These projects are happening first:

- Highland and Islands app with live travel information
- NHS Tayside and TACTRANS trying out transport to one hospital
- Dundee active travel choices





Lots more applications are coming now for the second part of Mobility As A Service.

Many of these applications are about Demand Responsive Transport.



IMTAC said that they have been focusing on rural transport.

They said that the high costs of Demand Response Transport make it hard to do.



6 - National Strategy for Disabled People

Keith gave everyone an update about this strategy in England.

It will be published in May 2021.

DPTAC helped write the bits about the built environment.

It included:

- staff training
- signs
- passenger rights



The Centre for Social Justice Disability Commission have written [this response](#) to it.



MACS said that the 2019 report called Transport Poverty in Scotland is based on human rights.

7 – Accessibility 4 Nations Liaison Group



Linda asked if everyone agreed the new Version 1 of the Terms of Reference, after the changes. Everyone said they agreed.



Actions

Action 1 is to share the draft Motability letter with DPTAC and IMTAC.

This has been done.

Action 2 is to share the Changing Places Toilets Directory.

This has been done.

Action 3 is to agree the Terms of Reference document.

This has been done.

Action 4 is for IMTAC to think about changing their August meeting agenda to make time for updates.

This is still being worked on.

Action 5 is for Michael Lorimer to share new low floor coach design.

This has been done.

Action 6 is to ask the UK government to make things better for people travelling with assistance dogs to the European Union.

This is still being worked on.





The meeting ended.