

Mobility vehicles project

Achievements and future actions

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UKAFA 12 June 2013

Department
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The current position

- Mobility scooters, manual and powered wheelchairs are referred to as “invalid carriages” in legislation. The primary legislation, the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 defines an “invalid carriage” as “*a vehicle, whether mechanically propelled or not, constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of one person, being a person suffering from some physical defect or disability*”.
- There is no requirement for mandatory training or to have insurance cover. There is no legal eyesight standard to meet.
- **.....but with an aging population the demand for mobility vehicles is likely to increase**

The Project

- “review the unladen weight limit for powered wheelchairs”
- “consider the case for mandatory eyesight testing”
- “review matters relating to insurance and the use of specialist training providers”
- “work with transport operators and the industry to enable a disabled person to have more confidence that they can travel with a mobility scooter”

(Norman Baker - Written Ministerial Statement, 1 March 2012)

Achievements

- *Mobility scooters & powered wheelchairs- some guidance for users* (DfT), published in 2012
- Standard assessment form to assist trainers developed with stakeholders (2012)
- Eyesight testing protocol developed with Federation of Opticians (FODO), 2012/13
- Access to public transport – new database for mobility scooter users launched (2013)
- Draft Statutory Instrument to address revision of vehicle unladen weight to help wheelchair users with more acute clinical needs – in production

Issues for further consideration (1)

- How do we ensure proper assessments (including eyesight testing)?
- How do we promote the take up of more training?
- How do we promote take up of insurance cover?
- How do we get DfT's Guidance out to a wider audience?
- How do we tackle the second hand market?

Issues for further consideration (2)

- How do we improve the safety design of mobility vehicles?
- How do we publicise DfT's public transport access database?
- What are the wider implications of a growing market?
- How important are mobility scooters for leading independent lives?