

Consultation on:

Ending the **D**isabled **P**ersons
Transport **A**dvisory **C**ommittee
(**DPTAC**); and

What should we do if **DPTAC**
ends?



1. Foreword

1.1 The Government wants disabled people to have the same choices and opportunities as non-disabled people.



They want disabled people to be able to use public transport.

The Department for Transport needs to understand why disabled people can't use public transport.

1.2 The Department for Transport is looking at the best way to get advice from disabled people about their public transport needs.



The Department for Transport will use the ideas in this consultation paper to improve the advice it receives about disabled travellers.



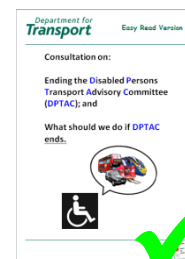
1.3 The **P**ublic **B**odies **A**ct 2011 (also called the **PBA**) needs the Minister to look at the ideas and then make an order.



The Minister will decide how the Department for Transport will get advice from disabled people about their public transport needs.

1.4 This consultation document is to:

- Explain the Government review.
- Find the best way to get advice about the accessibility of public transport.
- Get views and comments on options.



1.5 There are over 10 million disabled people in the UK and this is likely to increase.



The Department for Transport need to make sure that public transport is accessible for disabled people.

More accessible public transport will also benefit older people, families and the whole community.

2. Background

2.1 In October 2010 there was a review of over 900 **Non Departmental Public Bodies** (also called **NDPBs**).



The review showed that a big change was needed:

- To increase **NDPBs'** responsibility.
- Reduce the duplication of work
- Be more open with people about how they work
- Stop work which is not needed.



2.2 The Government put forward the idea to change over 480 public bodies.



Some of these are **statutory bodies** which means they cannot change without some laws changing.

Statutory bodies

Organisations that help to make and change laws.

2.3 The review said that the Department for Transport's advisory body, DPTAC, should close.

The Government said that it will need a new group so the Government can still get advice on disabled traveller's needs.



3. Current Position

About DPTAC

3.1 DPTAC was set up in 1985.

It was set up to give independent advice to the Government about disabled travellers.

DPTAC looks at the needs of disabled people and public transport.

The cost for DPTAC in 2010-2011 was £496,000.

DPTAC has 12 members.

How is DPTAC organised?

3.2 DPTAC's members include disabled people who use public transport and professional people who deal with disability and transport.

They must look at disability issues as a group.

The DPTAC Chairperson makes sure that the group meet regularly and that they share their decisions with the public.

3.3 DPTAC has looked at how things work in public transport and have found things to change.

What does DPTAC do?

3.4 DPTAC gives advice to the Department for Transport about disabled people and how to make travel accessible.



Department for
Transport



For example DPTAC is working with the Olympic Delivery Authority to make public transport accessible for the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.



DPTAC also gives advice to the Department for Transport Rail 'Access for All' programme.

DPTAC review

3.5 In 2008 there was a review of DPTAC.

The review said DPTAC's job was important to the Government.

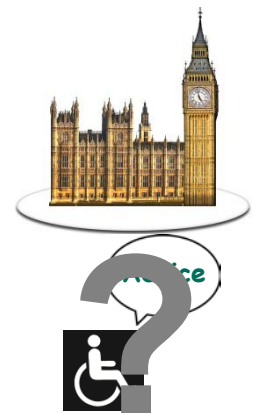
The review also said that DPTAC could save money and needed clearer focus.



3.6 In 2009 DPTAC changed how it worked.

The Department for Transport thinks that a clearer delivery focus would help disabled travellers more.

They also think public transport can be improved by getting advice from more disabled passengers.



3.7 Ministers think that the way DPTAC works is out of date.



Ministers think there is a cheaper and better way to get disability advice.

3.8 DPTAC's job is to look at the needs of just disabled people.

The new group will also have to look at the needs of other people in the community.



4. Disability issues: Where are we?

4.1 DPTAC has helped the Government meet the needs of disabled passengers more effectively since 1985.



4.2 DPTAC has helped pass laws to make public transport fairer for disabled travellers.



The Equality Act

2010 says providers must have 'due regard' for disabled travellers.

There is also a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People.

This is a list of rules between countries saying how disabled people should be treated.



These laws now mean that disabled travellers must be consulted on any changes to public transport which affect them.

A UN Convention says that disabled people should be consulted in any decisions on issues about them.

4.3 A lot has been done to make public transport more accessible.

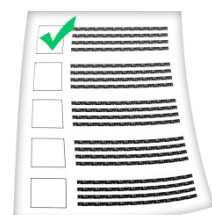


The number of disabled people who have difficulty using public transport has gone down since 2005.

Disabled and older people can use free off-peak travel on local buses anywhere in England.

4.4 Some new ideas being trialled:

- Passenger Assist





This will make rail transport more reliable and easy to use for disabled passengers.

4.5 There is still more to be done to public transport to make it more accessible:

- The way information is provided.
- Information in alternative formats.
- Getting around stations, stops and platforms.
- Space for wheelchairs.
- Conflicts - such as giving up your seat for an elderly traveller.



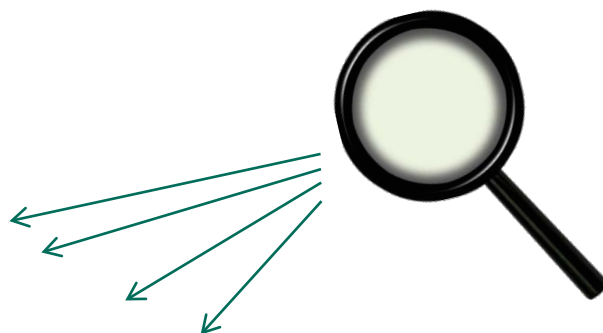
4.6 The Government still wants so get advice from disabled people to make public transport accessible for them, and when they are making laws and rules for public transport providers.



5. Future requirements:

5.1 The October 2010 review of NDPBs decided that changes were needed. These changes were:

- To increase NDPBs responsibility
- Reduce their duplication of work
- Be more open with people about how they work
- Stop work which is not needed.



The Department for Transport may end DPTAC but it still needs advice on disabled people's issues when using public transport.

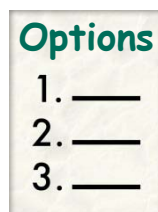
Any new arrangements must:

- deliver disability advice.
- have more flexibility over working arrangements and appointments.
- be more accountable to Ministers.
- represent better value for money.



5.2 The Department has developed a number of options for getting advice on disability transport issues.

These options are only needed if the Department decides to end DPTAC.



5.3 The Department invited people involved in DPTAC to give us their views by 21 July 2011.

A workshop was held on 11 July 2011 so that the options could be discussed in more detail.

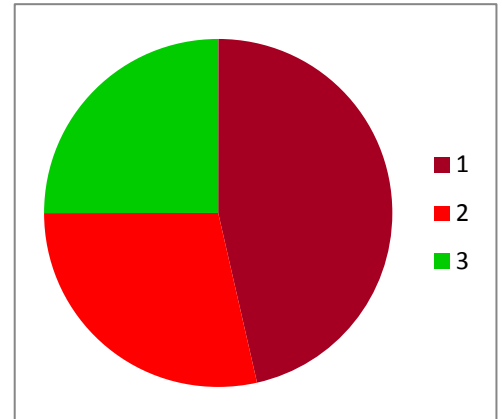


5.4 The responses to the call for evidence showed that:

39% of respondents wanted DPTAC to stay in its current form.

24% wanted a combination of options (these are described below).

21% wanted a panel of experts with various members that could give specific advice when it is needed.



This group also wanted an annual meeting of all stakeholders so larger issues could be discussed.

5.5 At the workshop it was decided that a combination of all the options would be the best way for the Department to continue getting advice.



6. The Options:

Option 1: Use existing expertise in Department for Transport.

This means we would get advice from other organisations that we already work with.

For example the aviation team have been getting advice from airlines, airports and the Civil Aviation Authority as well as individuals with experience of disability issues.



The problem with this is you only get advice from a small number of people which may not take into account all disabled travellers requirements.

Option 2: A panel of experts that give specific advice when needed.

This option means having a group of people (with a wide range of knowledge and experience on disability issues) who would provide advice to the Department on transport disability issues when required.



The panel could be split into subgroups with different types of experience and knowledge.



The subgroups could include a group that gives advice on disability strategy and specialist groups, such as a rail group, that advises on just rail issues.

✓ The members could be in more than one subgroup if necessary.

This likely



option could give us better advice, as the groups are to be familiar with disability issues.

This option would require someone to manage the group of people and arrange the meetings.

The Department estimates this to cost around £70,000 per year.

This assumes that members are only reimbursed for expenses and therefore there are no costs of the panel.

Option 3: Create a stakeholder group, which could meet when advice is needed.

The group would be around 20 people who would represent their organisation and provide a range of disability advice.



Meeting 2 or 3 times a year or when needed. The meeting would be chaired by a Department official or a Minister.



The members would be unpaid (except for expenses) and would include people from disability groups and transport operators.



Smaller working groups could provide the flexibility that is needed.

They could also look into issues in more detail between meetings.

The benefit of this option is that actions and decisions can be made instantly.

It would require someone to manage the people and the meetings.

The cost is estimated at around £35,000 per year.

Estimated
£35,000

This option risks not getting specific disability advice.



It would be limited by the stakeholder members who may not represent all disabilities.

The advice therefore may not be as useful as required.

Option 4: Use a cross-government body, such as (Department for Work and Pensions' Equality 2025.

Equality 2025

This is a group of disabled people who tell government about things that are important to disabled people.



Equality 2025 is sponsored by, but not part of, the Office of Disability Issues and Department for **W**ork and **P**ensions (**DWP**).

It is made up of disabled people and has nine members and a Chairperson.

Equality 2025 already looks at issues that affect disabled people, but they do not currently look at specific issues such as transport which could be included.

The group gives advice to government on issues that affect disabled people. This advice can be during policy development or examination of existing policy.

The group works with ministers and officials across Government but reports to the Minister for Disabled People, Maria Miller MP.

The Chairperson meets with the Minister every month.

Department for Transport Ministers could receive copies of Equality 2025's advice notes if they discuss any transport issues.



This would offer a limited source of advice. Disability advice is currently available from a wide variety of sources which can make it difficult to find the correct people to give advice.

This model could make getting the correct disability advice simpler.

Using this option would help the Government's commitment to reduce spending but we would still receive independent disability advice.



This option would also give advice on wider issues rather than being restricted to the transport aspects of an issue.



However, the members do not have necessary transport expertise. There is a risk advice on transport issues could be limited.

This could be solved by training existing group members to include transport at the next membership recruitment.

Equality 2025 mainly gives advice on policies so the Department would need to obtain specialist transport technical advice elsewhere.



Any advice may not be as complete as required because transport would be only one of Equality 2025's interest areas.



Option 5 - Cross Government Body (Equality 2025) and panel of experts



This would combine a group such as Equality 2025 and a group of members giving advice on specific areas.



The group of members would be the same as described in option 2, and the benefits and risks of Equality 2025 are described in option 4.

The estimated cost is around £70,000 per year.

Option 6 - DPTAC continues as a statutory body.

This option would keep the **Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee DPTAC** as a **statutory body**. It would still work as it currently does.



Statutory body

An organisation that helps to make and change laws.



The Committee has a mix of strategic and technical knowledge, and is able to give advice on a variety of disabled transport related issues.

The number of members is 12 which may mean the advice is not representative of all disabilities or disabled groups.

In the past DPTAC has worked on issues which were not considered priority by Government.



Because of this some Ministers believe DPTAC advice has not been timely and has missed important issues.



Over the past year there has been a focus on DPTACs work plan.

Since April 2009, members of the committee have been paid for their time.



The group also had to pay a **secretariat**.

Secretariat

Someone to organise the DPTAC and provide administration for them.

The costs for the last 2 years are below:

2010 – 2011 = £496,000

2011 – 2012 = £457,000

The estimated costs for the next 3 years were:

2012 – 2013 = £422,000

2013 – 2014 = £391,000

2014 – 2015 = £363,000

These costs are only if the group always has 12 members.

The costs are split as follows:

2010 – 2011: **Secretariat = £226, 500**
 Group Members = £270,000

2011 – 2012: **Secretariat = £110,000**
 Group Members = £347,000

DPTAC looks at the needs of disabled people only.

Other arrangements could mean the Department gets advice not just on disabled people but on others with reduced mobility, such as older people.

Summary:

New arrangements will need to:

- deliver disability advice.
- have more flexibility over working arrangements and appointments.
- be more accountable to Ministers.
- represent better value for money.

When responding to this consultation, please comment on the costs and benefits, giving evidence wherever possible.



Any Other Suggestions

If you have any suggestions on how the Department can get disability advice, please could you let us know.



7. Consultation questions

Q1: Do you agree with the Draft Impact Assessment document?

Yes ☐

No ☐



Please give us your comments and any supporting evidence.



.....

Q2: Which option do you think is most flexible and please tell us your reason?

Options	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____



.....

Q3: Which option do you think gives the most responsibility to Ministers and please tell us your reason?



.....

Q4: Is it important that the chosen group can give advice that represents all disabilities and disabled groups?



Please tell us your reasons and give examples of disability issues.



.....

Q5: Is it important that the chosen option can give advice on technical matters?

Detail

Please tell us your reasons and give examples of disability issues.



Q6: Is it important that the chosen option can give advice on transport disability issues across government? For example, showing the effects on health and social care?



Please tell us your reasons and give examples of disability issues.



Q7: Do you agree with the benefits and costs shown in the Impact Assessment for each option?



Are there any other benefits, costs and risks that we need to consider?

Please tell us your reasons and give examples of disability issues.



Q8: Considering your answers above, what do you think is the best option or combination of options?

Options	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____ ✓



Options
1. ____
2. ____
3. ____



Options
1. ____
2. ____
3. ____

Q9: Are there other options that we need to consider?

Please explain in detail. Include information on the benefits, costs and risks.



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Q10: Do you think that DPTAC should be abolished?



Please tell us your reasons.



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8. How to respond

We welcome your views and any other suggestions you have.

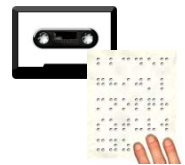
Your
suggestions



Please ensure that your response reaches us by 14th September 2012.



Further copies of this consultation can be found at:
www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open



You can contact the Department at the email address DPTACConsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk, if you would like an alternative format (Braille, audio CD, etc).



Responses should be sent to DPTACConsultation@dft.gsi.gov.uk or to the address below:



Disability Advice (re DPTAC)
Department for Transport
Sustainable Travel and Equalities
Zone 2/15
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 4DR

If you have any queries, please contact the Department via the above email address.

When responding, please state whether you are responding as an individual or representing the views of an organisation.



If responding on behalf of a large organisation, please make it clear who the organisation represents and how the views of members were assembled.

The Government will consider all suggestions on proposals for different arrangements in response to this paper.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and responding.



Freedom of Information



Information provided in response to this paper, including personal information, may be made public.

This would be due to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you want the information you provide to be treated as confidential you **MUST TELL US**.



It would be helpful if you could tell us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation but we cannot guarantee that your information will be withheld in all circumstances.

Automatic confidentiality disclaimers in emails will not be regarded as you requesting your information to be kept confidential.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1988 and, in most cases, this means that your personal data will not be disclosed.

If you have suggestions for others to be consulted please tell us.



9. What will happen next?

A summary of responses, including the next steps, will be published within three months of the consultation closing.



It will be at the following website address
www.dft.gov.uk/consultations

Paper copies are available on request.

