



# **The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee**

Annual Report 2025-2026



**Department for Transport**

# **The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee**

**Annual Report 2025-2026**

Presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 125 of the  
Transport Act 1985



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# Chair's foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee's (DPTAC) Annual Report for 2025–26, which sets out the Committee's advice and activities over a year of significant policy development and change across the transport system.

This reporting period has seen DPTAC continue to play its statutory role as a critical friend to the Department for Transport (the department), providing timely, constructive and experienced advice on matters affecting disabled people's ability to travel with confidence and independence. The breadth of work set out in this report reflects both the scale of ambition across government transport policy and the importance of ensuring that accessibility is embedded from the earliest stages of policy development through to delivery.

I continue to be grateful to Committee members for their professionalism, insight and generosity in sharing their lived experience and expertise. DPTAC's strength lies in the diversity of its membership and the collective commitment to presenting a pandisabled perspective across all modes of transport.

Over the course of the year, the Committee has provided advice on a wide range of issues, including rail reform, local transport accessibility, aviation and maritime accessibility, personal mobility and emerging technologies, and the use of research and evidence to inform policy. Our working groups have continued to

engage closely with officials, regulators and stakeholders, helping to shape consultations, challenge assumptions and highlight the realworld impact of policy decisions on disabled people and their families.

A recurring theme throughout our work has been the importance of early engagement, clear accountability and meaningful involvement of disabled people in the design and implementation of transport policies and services. Progress has been made, but there is more to do. DPTAC remains committed to supporting the department in turning policy intent into tangible improvements in the daytoday travel experiences of disabled people.

As Interim Chair, my priority is to maintain continuity, support the Committee in delivering highquality advice, and ensure that DPTAC continues to operate as an effective, trusted and independent advisory body. I look forward to working with ministers, officials, industry and disabled people's organisations in the year ahead as the transport system continues to evolve.

I hope this report provides a clear and transparent account of DPTAC's work during 2025–26 and demonstrates the value of independent advice rooted in lived experience. I would like to thank all Committee members, the DPTAC Secretariat and departmental colleagues for their dedication and collaborative approach over the year.

**Sue Sharp, Interim Chair**

# The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

## Background

The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) is an expert advisory Committee established by the Transport Act 1985 to advise the Secretary of State on matters relating to the needs of disabled persons in connection with public passenger transport.

DPTAC provides advice to the Department for Transport (the department) to assist in the development of policy and other proposals. It acts as a 'sounding board' and 'critical friend' offering clear constructive advice to the department.

DPTAC works to present a pan-disabled view on the effects of transport legislation, regulation, policy, operation, and guidance. DPTAC has a statutory duty to consider any matter, relating to the needs of disabled people in connection with transport, referred to it by the Secretary of State, and may also provide advice on other issues the Committee itself considers relevant to disabled people and the accessibility of transport.

## Our priorities

DPTAC's current priority commitments are to:

- provide timely, focused advice to the department on matters relating to transport for disabled people in

support of the department's priorities of improving performance, growing usage and transforming infrastructure on the network.

- take account of the broad views and experiences of disabled people and their families and carers, and develop its advice through effective engagement with the department the transport industry, organisations representing disabled people, and other stakeholders.
- work with the department to ensure that accessibility considerations are built into the early policy development of key transport measures, such as Better Connected : a Strategy for Integrated Transport, rail reform and bus reform.

## Membership

Membership requirements for DPTAC are set out in the Transport Act 1985, which requires that as far as reasonably practicable, at least half of the Committee's membership consists of disabled people. With the makeup of the Committee at the end of the 2025-26 period, this figure is closer to 75%. DPTAC's membership is made up of people with lived experience of disability and a broad range of experience using the transport system, as well as people who have worked in the transport and disability sectors. This allows DPTAC to speak with credibility and confidence on the needs of disabled transport users and effective ways of meeting them.

# Members

| Name                    | Role                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prof. Mat Campbell-Hill | Chair – Term ended 31 January 2026<br>Research and Evidence Working Group<br>Chair (up to June 2025) |
| Sue Sharp               | Deputy Chair (up to 31 January 2026) &<br>Interim Chair (from 01 February 2026)                      |
| David Sindall           | Rail Working Group Chair (From<br>November 2025)                                                     |
| Rachael Mole            | Research and Evidence Working Group<br>Chair (From July 2025)                                        |
| Mary Doyle              | Local Transport Working Group Chair                                                                  |
| Edward Trehwella        | Personal Mobility Working Group Chair                                                                |
| Carly Jones             | Aviation and Maritime Working Group<br>Chair                                                         |
| Bryan Matthews          | Rail Working Group Chair – Term ended<br>31 October 2025                                             |
| Niki Glazier            | Member – Term ended 31 October 2025                                                                  |
| Mike Brace CBE DL       | Member – Term ended 31 October 2025                                                                  |
| Damian Bridgeman        | Member                                                                                               |
| Christine Morgan        | Member – Resigned 31 December 2025                                                                   |
| Mark Cutter             | Member                                                                                               |
| Ruth Murran             | Member                                                                                               |
| Erin Pritchard          | Member                                                                                               |
| Paul Finnegan           | Member                                                                                               |
| Dr Miro Griffiths MBE   | Member                                                                                               |
| Mari Martiskainen       | Member                                                                                               |
| Zamila Skingsley        | Member                                                                                               |
| Maral Nosratzadeh       | Member                                                                                               |
| Victoria Armstrong      | Member                                                                                               |

DPTAC adopts a working group structure with remits focussed on different modes of transport. A guide to the Committee's structure can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/dptac-working-groups](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dptac-working-groups)

# The Committee's activities

This section of the report summarises the main aspects of DPTAC's work through the reporting period, by mode or other significant areas of work. DPTAC seeks to maintain a flexible and responsive approach to the provision of advice. This means that it will tailor and provide advice to suit the needs of its audience, which may be provided in writing or verbally at meetings with officials and ministers.

## Main Committee meetings

During the reporting period for 2025/26 the full Committee met in June 2025, September 2025, December 2025 and March 2026. The minutes for these meetings are [published on GOV.UK](#) and are summarised below.

## June 2025 meeting

### Attendees

DPTAC: Matthew Campbell-Hill (Chair), Sue Sharp (Deputy Chair), Mike Brace CBE DL, Mark Cutter, Carly Jones MBE, Mary Doyle, Paul Finnegan, Mari Martiskainen, Bryan Matthews, Rachael Mole, Ruth Murran, David Sindall, Zamila Skingsley and Edward Trewhella.

Officials: DfT Aviation Consumer Policy, DfT Accessible Travel Policy, Integrated National Transport Strategy Team, Liz Wilson (Deputy Director, Accessibility,

Community Transport, Coaches and Taxis Division), DfT Rail Reform Legislation Policy, DfT Rail Reform Engagement, DPTAC Secretariat.

Guests: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE.

Apologies: Damian Bridgeman, Niki Glazier, Dr Miro Griffiths MBE, Maral Nozratzadeh.

## **Welcome, conflicts of interest and minutes of previous Main Meeting**

The Chair welcomed everyone and asked for new real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest; members shared their new conflicts of interest.

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed without revision.

## **Ways of working update**

The Chair provided an overview of the work programme, explaining its structure and the ongoing pieces of work.

## **Integrated National Transport Strategy (INTS)**

Integrated National Transport Strategy (INTS) Team provided an update on progress made since March DPTAC meeting including engagement activities and the focus on people and integration.

The outcomes of the People's Panel sessions, which included discussions with seldom heard and underrepresented groups, was discussed. The

sessions provided insight into the barriers and issues faced by these groups, which will be considered in the development of the strategy.

The Committee members provided feedback on the strategic framework, emphasising the importance of clear language, integration, accountability, and the need to consider the whole journey experience for disabled people.

## **Railways Bill consultation**

The Head of DfT Rail Reform Legislation Policy provided an update on the draft Railways Bill consultation response, explaining the structure of the document and the key points. The importance of accessibility was highlighted, and key accessibility-related commitments were discussed.

## **Aviation Task and Finish Group Report**

Baroness Grey-Thompson led a discussion of the work of the Aviation Accessibility Task and Finish Group, highlighting the challenges faced and the status of the draft recommendations. She emphasised the difficulties faced by disabled passengers which formed the evidence base used by the group, including the inconsistent use of lanyards, training of assistance staff, and challenges with electric wheelchairs and batteries. The importance of practical solutions and better information sharing was highlighted.

The challenges in making complaints and the need for better data gathering and communication within the aviation industry was discussed.

The inconsistent handling of medical devices and assistance dogs by airlines was also discussed.

## **Transport Select Committee (TSC) Accessibility Inquiry – Departmental Response**

Liz Wilson, Deputy Director for Accessibility, Coaches, Community Transport and Taxis (ACT) was joined by the Head of Accessible Travel, to provide the Committee with an update on the Department's response to the recommendations of the TSC inquiry. The Committee was advised on how its advice on the recommendations made by the TSC to ministers informed their considerations on the matter.

The Committee was advised that the departmental response had been returned to the TSC in line with statutory timelines, and that the department was now developing a work programme to guide the delivery of the commitments made in response to the inquiry's recommendations.

The Committee was told it would be kept fully abreast of the implementation of this work programme with its advice sought on policy development and implementation as appropriate to their remit and capacity.

# September 2025 meeting

## Attendees

DPTAC: Sue Sharp (Deputy Chair), Bryan Matthews, Carly Jones MBE, Christine Morgan, David Sindall, Edward Trewhella, Erin Pritchard, Mari Martiskainen, Mary Doyle, Mike Brace CBE DL, Dr Miro Griffiths MBE, Niki Glazier, Paul Finnegan, Rachael Mole, Ruth Murran, Zamila Skingsley.

Officials: Rosie Snashall (Deputy Director, TSC Implementation), Liz Wilson (Deputy Director, Accessibility, Community Transport, Coaches and Taxis), Bus Bill Team, Cross-Modal Accessibility Team, Priority Projects Team, DPTAC Secretariat.

Apologies: Damian Bridgeman, Maral Nozratzadeh, Victoria Armstrong.

## Welcome, conflicts of interest and minutes of previous main meeting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including the new members of the Committee, and invited each person to briefly introduce themselves.

No real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest were declared.

The minutes from the previous meeting were noted with no comments from attendees.

## DPTAC Work Programme Updates

The Committee reviewed updates to the [DPTAC work programme](#). Each Working Group Chair provided a recap of activities from the last quarter, shared lessons learned and outlined priorities for the upcoming quarter.

The Chair of the Research and Evidence Working Group highlighted how her Working Group can provide research and evidence to inform and strengthen the work of other modal Working Groups.

## Legislative Process and DPTAC's role

The Committee discussed the legislative process, noting that DPTAC's primary influence occurs before a bill is introduced, through advising on policy and identifying issues for ministers and policy teams. While DPTAC does not hold a formal role during parliamentary stages, it can raise concerns where necessary.

## Wider Government Work on Disability

Updates were provided on the wider government work to support disabled people, including work which is being led by Cabinet Office with reference to inputs from DfT and as it relates to transport.

The update sought to bring the Committee up to date on relevant items, level of ambition and known timelines.

## Accessible Travel Charter

The Priority Projects Team presented plans for a new Accessibility Charter. The Charter will set out high-level

principles, supported by documents outlining operator commitments. It will be co-designed with disabled travellers, representative organisations, transport providers, and local government.

Members discussed the voluntary nature of the Charter, potential enforcement challenges, and the importance of clear accountability and measurable outcomes. Suggestions included publishing data to improve transparency, introducing annual monitoring (potentially by an independent organisation), and ensuring government-owned operators lead by example.

DPTAC requested continued involvement in the development of the Charter, including input into communications planning.

## December 2025 meeting

### Attendees

DPTAC: Sue Sharp (Deputy Chair and Meeting Chair), Carly Jones MBE, Christine Morgan, Damian Bridgeman, David Sindall, Edward Trewhella, Erin Pritchard, Mary Doyle, Paul Finnegan, Rachael Mole and Ruth Murran.

Officials: Gavin James (Deputy Director, Traffic and Technology), Rosie Snashall (Deputy Director, TSC Implementation), Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Team, Civil Parking and Traffic Enforcement Policy Team, Cross Modal Accessibility Team and DPTAC Secretariat.

Apologies: Maral Nozratzadeh, Mari Martiskainen, Dr Miro Griffiths MBE, Victoria Armstrong and Zamila Skingsley.

## **Welcome, conflicts of interest and minutes of previous main meeting**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited each person to briefly introduce themselves.

No real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest were declared.

The minutes from the previous meeting were noted with no comments from attendees.

## **Automated Vehicles Accessibility**

Members from the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles team updated the Committee on the progress towards implementing a full regulatory framework for automated vehicles, with the goal of completing implementation in the second half of 2027. It was noted that this involves a series of consultations and incremental legislative steps to ensure readiness. There was discussion about the challenges of communicating updates effectively and the value of exploring additional channels to improve visibility and engagement.

Those present also considered how best to facilitate specialist stakeholder sessions, emphasising the importance of training for officials to ensure inclusivity and effective participation.

Recruitment processes and public appointments were discussed, including the value of involving individuals with relevant experience in selection panels.

The discussion concluded with a general agreement on the importance of early engagement, clear communication, and structured support to achieve the programme's objectives.

## **Law Commission Review of Transport Accessibility Legislation**

The Committee received a detailed update on the forthcoming Law Commission review of transport accessibility legislation.

The discussion covered the scope, timeline, and engagement plans, with emphasis on the need for Committee input on priorities.

The review will look at the complexity of existing legislation across transport modes and the public realm (including streetscapes). The process will involve desk-based research, interviews, and stakeholder engagement, with opportunities for ongoing Committee involvement.

## **Accessible Travel Charter**

DfT officials outlined the rationale for a staged development approach of the Accessible Travel Charter, comprising a mission statement, detailed commitments, and best practice guidance.

Committee members highlighted the importance of meaningful stakeholder engagement and designing the views of disabled people to be ongoing through the process – balancing momentum with inclusivity.

Development plans include workshops, surveys, and regular touchpoints, with a survey open until 23 January to gather additional evidence.

Participants discussed the voluntary nature of the Charter, alongside potential incentives for industry adoption, such as public recognition and alignment with other processes. There was strong support for making the Charter a living document, subject to ongoing review and adaptation to future developments. Practical considerations included budget allocation for lived experience panels, and ensuring accessibility and inclusivity in all engagement activities.

## **Pavement Parking**

DfT officials provided a comprehensive update to the Committee on the current status and direction of the pavement parking ban policy, highlighting the shift from a proposed national ban to a devolved, locally led approach and outlining the legislative and exemption framework under consideration.

DfT officials also outlined the evaluation strategy to measure the impact of the pavement parking ban, including baseline data collection, targeted surveys, and case studies, with a focus on key groups such as

wheelchair users, visually impaired people, and those using pushchairs.

Committee members raised concerns about conflicting access needs, enforcement challenges, and the limitations of existing schemes like Blue Badges. Additional considerations included managing exemptions, addressing commercial vehicle behaviour, and ensuring pavements are repaired promptly.

Those present agreed on the need for strong stakeholder engagement, inclusive research design, and ongoing updates as the policy and evaluation work progress.

## March 2026 meeting

### Attendees

DPTAC: Sue Sharp (Interim chair and Meeting chair), Carly Jones MBE, Damian Bridgeman, David Sindall, Edward Trewhella, Erin Pritchard, Mark Cutter, Mari Martiskainen, Mary Doyle, Dr Miro Griffiths MBE, Paul Finnegan, Rachael Mole, Ruth Murran, Victoria Armstrong and Zamila Skingsley.

Officials: Holly Greig (Deputy Director, Integrated National Transport Strategy Programme), Liz Wilson (Deputy Director, Accessibility, Community Transport, Coaches and Taxis), Rosie Snashall (Deputy Director, TSC Implementation), Cross Modal Accessibility Team, Law Commission, Legislation Policy Team and DPTAC Secretariat.

Apologies: Maral Nozratzadeh

## **Welcome, conflicts of interest and minutes of previous main meeting**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited each person to briefly introduce themselves.

No real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest were declared.

The minutes from the previous meeting were noted with no comments from attendees.

## **Law Commission review of transport accessibility legislation**

The Law Commission provided an overview of its forthcoming review of the legal framework governing the accessibility of transport for disabled people.

Commissioned by the Department for Transport in response to the Transport Select Committee's Access Denied report, the review will consider legislation across all transport modes with the aim of simplifying and modernising the law, supporting end to end journeys, and ensuring it remains effective as technology and travel patterns evolve. The review will run until January 2029, with a public consultation planned around September 2027.

Law Commission representatives outlined their role as an independent law reform body and emphasised the importance of embedding the lived experience of disabled people throughout the review. Members welcomed the proposed approach, highlighting the value of inclusive,

accessible engagement that reflects the diversity of disabled people's experiences, including intersectionality, intermodality, and the realities of unpredictability and disruption in everyday travel. The importance of clear, accessible communications and a range of engagement methods was also noted.

## **Accessible Travel Charter (ATC) update**

The Committee also received an update from the Cross Modal Accessibility Team on the development of the Accessible Travel Charter. Officials outlined progress on the vision document and the enhanced passenger rights guidance, explaining how earlier DPTAC feedback had informed improvements to structure, clarity, audience focus, and accessibility, including the provision of accessible formats. Members welcomed the opportunity to review revised drafts ahead of publication and discussed the importance of clear communication, proportionate monitoring, and articulating the intended impact of the charter. Ongoing engagement with DPTAC was welcomed as work progresses to the next stage of developing charter principles and pledges later in the year.

## **Rail reform**

DfT officials provided an update on the progress of the Railways Bill, outlining its progress through Parliament and the forthcoming stages in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They explained the purpose of each part of the legislative process and

confirmed that the bill has now completed its Commons Committee Stage.

Officials also highlighted the key themes that have emerged during parliamentary scrutiny and reflected on the evidence presented to the Transport Select Committee, before setting out proposed ways of working with the Committee as the bill continues its passage. Members welcomed the commitment to continued collaboration, noting that the Rail Working Group will serve as a key forum for further discussion and input as the bill progresses.

## **Better Connected: integrated national transport strategy**

DfT officials provided an update on the development of Better Connected (formerly integrated national transport strategy), outlining its purpose, context, and progress towards publication.

The strategy seeks to bring greater coherence to the transport system through a people focused approach, ensuring transport meets the needs of users across different places and communities. Officials outlined the context and confirmed that publication was expected imminently, with the final draft to be shared with the Committee in advance.

The Committee was briefed on the extensive engagement and evidence base underpinning the strategy. Key themes emerging from this work included the importance of reliability, safety, affordability,

accessibility, and ease of use. Insights from disabled people, older people, women and girls, and neurodivergent people were highlighted, alongside strong alignment between engagement findings and existing departmental research.

# DPTAC Working Groups

DPTAC adopts a working group structure to undertake its work. During the reporting period 2025/26 there were 5 active working groups covering Aviation and Maritime; Rail; Local Transport; Personal Mobility; and Research and Evidence. These groups are supported by the Co-ordination and Oversight Group comprising the Chair, Deputy Chair and Working Group Chairs, which covers Committee business and administration matters. These groups are expected to remain fully active in the next reporting period, 2026/27.

## Aviation and Maritime Working Group

The Aviation and Maritime Working Group advises on aviation related policy, working with the Department for Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and other stakeholders to promote aviation accessibility. The Working Group also advises on maritime accessibility policy, working with the department and the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA).

The working group is chaired by Dr Carly Jones MBE.

Members:

Dr. Carly Jones MBE

Sue Sharp

Mike Brace CBE DL (until October 2025)

Mary Doyle

Rachael Mole

David Sindall

Niki Glazier (Until October 2025)

Erin Pritchard

Through 2025/26, activities spanned consultations, meetings, and contributions to research and policy developments, aiming to improve the travel experience for disabled passengers, including:

## **Aviation Accessibility Task and Finish Group**

Contributed to the work of the Aviation Accessibility Task and Finish Group, informing recommendations in advance of the final report's publication, and as the work progresses in the form of the Aviation Accessibility Implementation Group (AAIG). DPTAC's continued participation ensures the group's work focuses on improving the air travel experience of disabled people with a broad range of impairments, particularly non-visible.

## **Maritime Accessibility Conference**

Participated in the Maritime Accessibility Conference, focusing on the prevailing issues, challenges, and opportunities pertinent to passenger accessibility within the maritime sector.

## **Entry / Exit Scheme**

Provided advice on accessibility communications surrounding the introduction of Entry/Exit Systems (EES) at ports and airports. This helped to provide guidance to ports and travel operators to ensure they were considering disabled passengers and their requirements when planning how to implement and communicate the introduction of EES checks.

## **Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) engagement**

Continued to maintain a relationship with the MCA to review trends in accessibility related incidents and complaints.

## **Rail Working Group**

The Rail Working Group advises on matters relating to rail accessibility.

Members:

David Sindall (Chair from October 2025)

Bryan Matthews (Chair until October 2025)

Niki Glazier (Until October 2025)

Mike Brace CBE DL (Until October 2025)

(Anthony) Mark Cutter

Dr. Carly Jones MBE

Prof. Mari Martiskainen

Ruth Murran

Mary Doyle

Erin Pritchard

During 2025/6, the Rail Working Group (RWG) continued its focus on providing advice aimed at enhancing rail accessibility and engaging with key stakeholders in the rail industry. This included advising on the content of consultations, performing reviews of wide ranging reform plans, attending workshops, and directly advising on rail matters, including:

## **Railways Bill and Great British Railways (GBR)**

Provided advice in relation to the accessibility elements of the consultation on the Railways Bill. Held discussions with officials and advised on the accessibility related content of the government's response to the railways bill consultation. This informed the final policy included in the government response, how it was presented, and the accessible formats provided for the response.

Provided and continue to provide advice on the ongoing passage of the railways bill and the development of plans related to GBR.

## **Fares and Disabled Persons Railcard**

Advised department officials on the special rail fare policy for disabled people.

Provided advice on the assessment of the cost and eligibility criteria for the Disabled Persons Railcard (DPRC). This informed subsequent decisions to widen eligibility for the DPRC.

## **Station and rolling stock accessibility**

Provided advice on the use of light engineering solutions within the Access for All programme.

Provided advice to DfT officials on station accessibility data and prioritisation.

Reviewed several RVAR exemption requests and consultations.

Reviewed advice on the code of practice for station accessibility.

Provided advice regarding alarm pull cords in train and station toilets.

Provided advice on several Train Operating Company accessible travel policies.

## **Passenger Watchdog**

Offered guidance to department officials on the scope and workings of the future Passenger Watchdog. This guidance helped to shape the Passenger Watchdog policy, including the Watchdog's functions, ahead of the Railways Bill being laid in Parliament in November 2025.

## **Rail Accessibility Roadmap**

Provided continued input at all stages of the development, and now implementation, of the Rail Accessibility Roadmap. This input helped shape the Accessibility Roadmap ahead of its publication in November 2025, and continues to inform how projects are delivered.

## **Local Transport Working Group**

The Local Transport Working Group advises on matters relating to bus, coach, taxi and private hire vehicle accessibility.

Members:

Mary Doyle – Chair

Mike Brace CBE DL (Until October 2025)

Damian Bridgeman

(Anthony) Mark Cutter

Paul Finnegan

Ruth Murran

Maral Nozratzadeh

David Sindall

Edward Trewhella

Victoria Armstrong

During 2025/6, the Local Transport Working Group (LTWG) provided advice across a range of activities including consultations and policy development, related to local transport accessibility, including:

## **Bus Services (no. 2) Bill & related statutory guidance**

Submitted advice on the additional accessibility measures incorporated in the Bus Services (No.2) Bill. This advice helped to shape and prioritise government amendments on bus accessibility in response to concerns about existing provision.

Supplied further advice regarding the review of Passenger Rights Regulations. This advice helped to ensure that the impact of rights of passengers in bus and coach transport regulations informed the final response to the post implementation review of the domestic regulations.

Advised on statutory guidance for Local Transport Authority (LTA) grant-making powers under the Bus Services (No.2) Bill.

Submitted advice on the accessibility considerations to be included in the statutory guidance for bus services grants.

Submitted advice on the statement of requirements for the procurement of a supplier to produce guidance on the safety and accessibility of stopping places. This advice aided the development of a robust specification,

reflecting the need to develop guidance informed by the perspectives of disabled people. This will help to shape future provision of bus and coach stopping places so that they are more consistently facilities that people can and want to use. DPTAC will continue to play an important role in informing the consideration of disabled passenger needs as the guidance is developed.

Provided advice and feedback on the draft statutory guidance for floating bus stop infrastructure. This helped the department ensure concerns about the impact of these designs on disabled people, particularly vision-impaired people, were reflected.

Submitted advice on the guidance document for the training on crime and anti-social behaviour measures in the Bus Services Act 2025. The advice helped the team understand how the guidance could be improved to highlight issues of intersectionality and other protected characteristics.

## **English National Concessionary Travel Scheme**

Delivered feedback on the Updated Guidance for Local Authorities pertaining to the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme.

## **Bus Centre of Excellence (BCoE)**

Engaged in both the Bus Centre of Excellence Bus Safety Conference and the UK Bus Manufacturing Expert Panel.

## **Taxis and private hire vehicles (PHVs)**

Held discussions with officials regarding taxi & PHV accessibility exemption notices. This has informed policy development in preparation for potential secondary legislation in 2026/27 and beyond.

Provided advice on mixed fleets policy for taxis and PHVs. The advice DPTAC previously provided in 2020 on the need for mixed fleets remained unchanged, and this will be factored into policy thinking on improving accessibility.

## **Enhanced Partnerships review**

Provided advice to the department on the enhanced partnerships review and consultation therein with disabled people. Further advice was provided in review of subsequent Enhanced Partnership guidance which was published on 1 April 2026.

## **National Public Transport Access Nodes (NaPTAN)**

Provided advice on National Public Transport Access Nodes (NaPTAN), particularly around accessible terminology.

## **Personal Mobility Working Group**

The Personal Mobility Working Group advises on matters relating to personal mobility and independent travel. This includes active travel, mobility aids, built environment,

driving, including autonomous vehicles, and micro-mobility.

Members:

Edward Trewhella – Chair

Sue Sharp

Ruth Murran

Rachael Mole

Bryan Matthews (Until October 2025)

Damian Bridgeman

Paul Finnegan

Dr. Miro Griffiths MBE

Victoria Armstrong

The Personal Mobility Working Group (PMWG) focused on several areas during 2025/6, activity included:

## **Active Travel England (ATE)**

Consulted with Active Travel England (ATE) on accessibility research concerning disabled cyclists.

Provided feedback and advice on floating bus stop infrastructure research specification.

Provided feedback to ATE on the inclusive crossings report.

Provided advice on ATE's Rural Design Guidance.

## **Mobility Devices**

Held discussions with and provided continued advice to officials on the powered mobility devices regulatory review, including the draft consultation. The consultation ran from 6 January until 22 April 2026.

## **Mobility Centres**

Submitted advice to support engagement on the role and operations of mobility centres, in conjunction with the Research and Evidence working group.

## **Automated Vehicles**

Advised the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) on accessibility matters related to commercial automated passenger services permitting scheme pilots.

## **Cross pavement technologies**

Provided advice on the accessibility of cross-pavement electric vehicle charging technologies. This informed policy development ahead of a local authority scheme for rolling out these technologies.

## **Charge point accessibility**

Submitted advice on the Publicly Available Specification (PAS) 1899 standards for charge point accessibility. This informed the review of the PAS 1899 which was published by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in November 2025. Also participated in and submitted advice to the working group on assistance requirements

for disabled drivers at public charge points. This will help shape the revision of accessibility standards for charge points.

## **Manual for Streets**

Provided feedback on an early draft of the Manual for Streets, the department's good practice guidance on designing streets, which put consideration of people walking and wheeling first. This project will bring together and update the existing Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2. The Committee's input will help ensure accessibility needs are fully reflected in the department's advice to those designing new streets and altering existing ones.

## **Pavement Parking**

Provided advice to the department on its policy approach to pavement parking, including advising on evaluation.

## **Research and Evidence Working Group**

The Research and Evidence Working Group advises on research and the use of data in relation to disabled people's access and use of public transport. Members provide guidance to other working groups on research methodologies for their advice.

Members:

Matthew Campbell Hill – Chair (up to June 2025)

Rachael Mole – Chair (From July 2025)

Dr. Miro Griffiths MBE

Prof. Mari Martiskainen

Maral Nozratzadeh

Zamilla Skingsley

The Research and Evidence (R&E) Working Group engaged in numerous activities throughout 2025/6, Their work spanned across multiple meetings with DfT staff, and providing advice on research and data analysis related to accessible transport. Areas of focus included:

## **Purple Pound research**

Conducted desktop research on the use of the ‘Purple Pound’ as an economic policy instrument in transport.

## **Autonomous vehicles**

Held discussions with the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) on the findings of the accessibility research and on the roadmap for the introduction of the Automated Passenger Services (APS) permitting scheme.

## **Research engagement with the department**

Gave a presentation to department analysts on accessible qualitative and quantitative good practice in research.

Provided advice to the department on 'co-production' and where this sits within government process.

Provided an oral and written review of the Phase 2 of Personal safety on public transport research proposal.

## **Mobility Centres**

Submitted advice to support engagement on the role and operations of mobility centres, in conjunction with the Personal Mobility Working Group.

## **Data Action Plan**

Reviewed and provided advice on the departments Data action plan and its accessibility commitments. This allowed the plan to better represent the needs of disabled people, to acknowledge the challenges of the ongoing work, and to set this work up in a way that strengthens links to DPTAC.

# Register of members' interests (as of 31 March 2026)

## **Professor Matthew Campbell-Hill: DPTAC Chair**

Employment: Professor of Novel Technology Design and Adoption at the University of Birmingham.

Directorships: Non-executive director at DVSA, The International Innovation House Ltd, AerosolShield Ltd, Ted's Light CIC Ltd.

Shares: Nudea Ltd.

## **Dr Carly Jones MBE**

Employment: International consultancy work on non-visible disabilities and safeguarding, Co Production Manager at NHS England.

## **Christine Morgan**

Membership: Accreditation Committee, The Architects Registration Board and the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP), Department for Health and Social Care.

## **Damian Bridgeman**

Employment: Deputy Chair of the RSA Fellowship Council and Director of Freedom 365.

## Membership:

Welsh Government Disabled people's rights plan External advisory board member.

Department for Work and Pensions Disability advisory Panel member.

Chair, Wheelchair Collective, the new National Advisory Network of the Wheelchair Alliance.

## David Sindall

In receipt of a private pension from the Railway's Pension Fund.

Membership: British Airways Accessibility Committee and Board Member, Tranmere Rovers Supporters Trust.

## Edward Trehella

Employment: Part-time CEO, Driving Mobility.

## Erin Pritchard

Employment: Liverpool Hope University.

## Maral Nozratzadeh

Employment: University of Leeds, School of Law, postgraduate researcher.

## Mark Cutter

Membership:

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (Judicial Office Holder)

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (Judicial Office Holder)

Northern Trains (Independent Chair, Northern Accessibility User Group)

Rail Accessibility Inclusion Forum – RAIFN (Independent Chair, Northern Accessibility User Group)

Metanoia Institute, Doctoral Candidate in Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy

Employment: Practitioner, London Accessibility Psychotherapy and Inclusive Supervision.

## Professor Mari Martiskainen

Employment: University of Birmingham, Professor of Energy and Society.

Directorship: UKRI-funded Energy Demand Research Centre (EDRC), based at Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU).

## Mary Doyle

Owner, Rocket Girl Coaching: Independent inclusion and training consultancy.

Chair/Consultant: British Airways, Access Advisory Panel.

Co-Chair/Consultant: East West Rail Company,  
Accessibility Advisory Panel.

Membership:

Wilson James – Disability Stakeholder Forum

London Luton Airport – Accessibility Forum

British Standards Institute – Wheelchair Standards  
Committee

RAF Museum London – Access Advisory Group

ITV Anglia – Inclusion and Diversity Panel

## **Dr Miro Griffiths MBE**

Employment: Associate Professor of Social Policy and  
Disability Studies at the University of Leeds

Directorship: Director at Miro Consultancy.

## **Paul Finnegan**

Employment: Executive Director of Lighthouse, a suicide  
prevention charity in Belfast.

Membership: Belfast Area Integrated Partnership Board  
(AIPB).

Governor on the board of the SouthEastern Regional  
College (SERC).

## **Rachael Mole**

Directorship: Director, Moleworks Solutions Ltd, NED Patchwork Hub Ltd.

Vice Chair, Trustee, Sounddelivery Media Charity

Employment:

Secretariat for Financial Inclusion Commission

Lloyds Bank Foundation business development partner.

Sounddelivery Media Charity Trustee

## **Ruth Murran**

Currently litigating a personal injury case against LNER.

## **Sue Sharp: DPTAC Interim Chair**

Directorships: Trustee of Driveability Scotland.

Member: Network Rail Built Environment Access Panel, Independent Gatwick Advisory Panel (IGAP).

## **Victoria Armstrong**

Employment: Chief Executive of CTA (Community Transport Association)

Director: Women in Bus and Coach; AGL Skills

## **Zamila Skingsley**

Trustee: UNICEF UK.

## Directorship: Non-executive Director, Torus Group.

# Budget

DPTAC is funded by the Department for Transport to cover members fees and expenses. DPTAC's expenditure for the 2025-26 financial year was £236,371.47. this included fees and sundry expenditure.







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