



# **Who** we are and **what** we do

**Disabled Persons  
Transport Advisory Committee**  
(Established under the Transport Act 1985)

## **Our purpose**

We have been established by an Act of Parliament as an independent body to advise Government on the transport needs of disabled people.

We also advise on the built environment needs of disabled people.

## **The task**

This is a huge task. There are over 8.5 million disabled people in Great Britain, who face major, widespread problems and disadvantages on all forms of transport and in the built environment.

## **Our aim**

Our aim is to ensure that disabled people can go where everyone else goes and that they can do so easily and without extra cost. We would like to see this happen over the next 10 years.

Attitudes are changing. There has already been some progress in recent years but it has been slow.

**If you want more  
information about DPTAC**  
visit our website:  
[www.dptac.gov.uk](http://www.dptac.gov.uk)

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 created statutory rights and obligations. Under the Act, new trains and buses must meet thorough accessibility requirements. Although this is a great improvement on where this country was only a few years ago, this Act still needs to be improved.

## **Who we are**

Our Chair is Jane Wilmot, who is deaf. There are 20 other members of DPTAC representing a wide cross-section of disabled people and key transport professionals with experience of disability issues, as well as representatives from Scotland and Wales. By law, at least half of the DPTAC members have to be disabled. The Chair and members are appointed by Ministers and serve for three years.

We have a small Secretariat with an office in London.

**If you want more information about how to plan your journey**  
call TRIPSCOPE on 0845 758 56 41 -  
calls charged at local rate,  
minicom available.

## **What are DPTAC's statutory responsibilities?**

DPTAC has a statutory duty to consider any matter referred to it by Ministers but it can give advice on any other issue on the transport needs of disabled people in England, Wales and Scotland. We have a number of other specific statutory roles. We also advise on the needs of disabled people who travel by car, and in relation to the pedestrian environment.

## **How we work**

Our role in relation to Government and industry is to give credible advice:

- to represent the views of a broad range of disabled people
- on legislation, regulations or guidance on transport and the built environment and
- in response to important consultation documents.

We work closely with the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) and with Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Our principles in advising Government and industry:

- Accessibility is a condition of any investment
- Accessibility must be a mainstream activity
- Users should be involved in determining accessibility
- Accessibility is the responsibility of the provider.

## How to contact us

The Chair of DPTAC is Jane Wilmot.

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Copies of this leaflet can be obtained free of charge from DPTAC.

This leaflet is available in Braille, on tape and on the DPTAC website.



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