



**Submission by the**

**Coach Tourism and Transport Council of Ireland**

**On**

**“Accessibility of Public Transport for People with  
Disabilities”**

**January 2018**

## **Introduction**

### **Coach Tourism and Transport Council**

The Coach Tourism and Transport Council (CTTC) is the representative body for Ireland's coach touring companies and Ireland's private bus operators. The CTTC's members are experts in all types of coach hire and transport solutions, including: airport transfers, day tours, extended touring, incentive travel, golf tours, school transport and provision of scheduled services. In addition to specialising in long distance scheduled services, many of CTTC's members also operate licensed bus services in towns and cities throughout Ireland.

All CTTC members are family owned companies, with a combined fleet of over 1,500 coaches, employing over 3,500 people directly. The CTTC comments and makes representations regularly on matters of concern to its members such as public transport, school transport, the coach tourism sector and the tourist industry generally.

### **Opening Statement**

CTTC believe the availability of and access to public transport is essential for many people with disabilities to play a full and active part in society, engage with their communities, access services and work. Accessibility to public transport is of critical importance to those who have no other form of transport and is a key challenge going forward with a rapidly ageing population. It ensures a quality of life which is taken as given norm for public transport passengers without a disability

Private Operators currently operate quality scheduled route services throughout the country under licence from the NTA and are uniquely placed to improve transport services in a cost efficient manner. However, there are at present significant barriers which are restricting the continued positive growth in the provision of fully accessible services and I set out hereunder same:-

## **1. Cost of Fully Accessible Transport**

In relation to the private sector, accessibility is restricted due to limited financial resources and the substantial cost of providing same. Private operators face additional costs in excess of €30,000 to purchase fully accessible vehicles. There is a requirement for positive National and EU incentives to create a sound business case for owning and operating accessible vehicles. In addition, funding should be provided from State resources to increase staff training, pre journey information and access point of contact to private operators to put systems in place to deal with requests for accessible vehicles.

## **2. Shared Usage of Existing Infrastructure**

Section 62 of the Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 was included to facilitate access by non-public funded transport operators to bus stations and railway stations, however, this has failed to materialise.

## **3. Investment in Infrastructure**

There is no point in providing accessible vehicles if the infrastructure is not available to support these services. All local authority transport plans must provide accessibility infrastructure and ensure sufficient funding is available to complete the necessary work. Other infrastructural barriers include managing the accessibility of infrastructure in small towns and villages to curb illegal parking in bus stops and provide accessible WCs and associated facilities at private resting areas and stations.

## **4. Co-Ordination**

In the past there is clear evidence that there has been a communication failure between Statutory Bodies. Therefore, there is an urgent requirement to ensure there is a joined up thinking process put in place between Planners, Transport Providers and Statutory Agencies to facilitate fully accessible transport infrastructure in any new development, to maximise resources to ensure a planned cohesive approach to optimise delivery.

## **Conclusion**

CTTC welcome the opportunity to make this Submission and look forward to liaising with and contributing to the provision of an enhanced public transport system that is value for money and provides a public transport system that is accessible to all users.