



INCLUSION IRELAND

National Association for People with an Intellectual Disability

**Pre-Budget
Submission 2022
To the Department of Transport**

June 2021

**This document is written in font 12 Verdana in line with Inclusion
Ireland plain English guidelines**

Key Messages

- People with intellectual disabilities and their families identified housing, the extra costs of disability and education as their most important issues for Budget 2022
- Article 9 of UNCRPD places an obligation on States Parties to ensure persons with disabilities can access transport in urban and rural areas on an equal basis with others. It requires states parties to take measures to identify and eliminate barriers to accessible transport.
- Invest resources to ensure that there is full accessibility across transport services. Attention should be paid to accessible information as well as physical access.
- Further develop and extend the Passenger Assistance scheme nationwide, extending it and rolling it out in rural areas in conjunction with the Local Link Rural Transport Programme.
- Resource the Local Link Rural Transport Programme to ensure actions are fully implemented within the required timeframes and in consultation with people with disabilities

About Inclusion Ireland

Established in 1961, Inclusion Ireland is a national, rights based advocacy organisation that works to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability.

The vision of Inclusion Ireland is that of people with an intellectual disability living and participating in the community with equal rights.

Inclusion Ireland's work is underpinned by the values of dignity, inclusion, social justice, democracy and autonomy and we use the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to guide our work.

Introduction

Inclusion Ireland believes that persons with intellectual disabilities should live self-determined lives and Budget 2022 provides an opportunity to invest in people. Budget 2022 must be a platform to create a more equal & just society and to further develop pathways into a life in the community for people with intellectual disabilities.

In putting together this submission we consulted with people with intellectual disabilities and their families. We received 311 responses to a survey and found that one of the most prominent issues from that survey was transport.

Our overall Pre-Budget submission identifies 4 key action areas informed by our consultations and the relevant UNCRPD Articles. These are to:

1. Provide accessible homes and supports so people can live in the community
2. Address poverty and the extra costs of disability
3. Invest in community inclusion
4. Support equality and participation

This submission for the Department of Transport has a specific focus on transport issues.

Invest in community inclusion

Transport

Article 9 of UNCRPD places an obligation on States Parties to ensure persons with disabilities can access transport in urban and rural areas on an equal basis with others. It requires states parties to take measures to identify and eliminate barriers to accessible transport.

Accessible transport

During Inclusion Ireland consultations on Budget 2022, issues frequently raised include: information such as timetables not being in accessible formats, inaccurate display or lack of audio systems, unstaffed bus and train stations and poor upkeep of existing accessibility features, such as ramps and lifts. These issues can be a significant barrier to people with intellectual disabilities travelling independently.

The Comprehensive Employment Strategy (Action 2.12), aims to develop the passenger assistance scheme where an assistant supports people to use public transport and plan journeys on Dublin Bus, Luas and DART. The scheme aims should be extended nationwide as it would support people with intellectual disabilities to use public transport.

Rural transport

A common issue arising from our consultations was the lack of public transport services in rural areas. The availability and accessibility of rural transport is a significant issue for people with intellectual disabilities as the absence of an accessible service leads to an increased isolation and a sense of being cut off from services and community supports. Many reported they have no access to any form of public transport, while others spoke of the difficulties posed by the long distance to bus stops or train stations, infrequent services or service provision and planning which is undependable.

The National Transport Authority's (NTA) first strategic plan for the Local Link Rural Transport Programme (2018-2022) outlines key actions relating to 'Access for All'. These include accessibility requirements to be specified in service contracts; analysis of accessibility levels across all contracted operators following a retendering of existing rural services; and ensuring feedback from disability representative groups and key stakeholders is used to inform a best practice approach to accessibility in the Rural Transport Programme.

Recommendations:

- Invest resources to ensure that there is full accessibility across transport services. Attention should be paid to accessible information as well as physical access.
- Further develop and extend the Passenger Assistance scheme nationwide, extending it and rolling it out in rural areas in conjunction with the Local Link Rural Transport Programme.
- Resource the Local Link Rural Transport Programme to ensure actions are fully implemented within the required timeframes and in consultation with people with disabilities

Inclusion Ireland receives support from the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO) for this work. The SSNO is government funding administered by Pobal.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

For further information, contact;

Julie Helen at 086 8373312/ julie@inclusionireland.ie