



**Department of Agriculture, Environment and
Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Disability Action Plan
(2019-2024)**

Consultation Response Questionnaire

**Responses must be received no later than midnight on
04 July 2021**

March 2021

BACKGROUND

Disability Action Plan

Under Section 49 (A) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) as amended by Article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is required when carrying out its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Under Section 49(B) of the DDA 1995, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is also required to submit to the Equality Commission a disability action plan showing how it proposes to fulfil these duties in relation to its functions.

The disability duties, like the duties under Section 75, adopt the mainstreaming approach and through equality screening tools the Department considers the effect of their policies, or likely impacts, and if there is an opportunity to better promote positive attitudes towards people with a disability or encourage their participation in public life.

Purpose

The attached questionnaire seeks your views on the draft DAERA Disability Action Plan.

Freedom of Information and GDPR

If you have indicated that you would be interested in contributing to this consultation then we might process your contact details to get in touch with you about your response.

We will process any other personal data provided in the responses for the purpose of informing the development of our policy, guidance or other regulatory work in the subject area of the request for views. In the case of consultations, we will publish a

summary of the consultation responses and, in some cases, the responses themselves but these will not contain any personal data.

The lawful basis we are relying on to process your personal data is article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR, which allows us to process personal data when this is necessary for the performance of our public tasks in our capacity as a regulator.

Before you submit your response, please read Appendix 1 about the effect of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on the confidentiality of responses to public consultation exercises.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

DRAFT DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

The questionnaire can be completed by individual stakeholders, members of the public, or on behalf of a group or organisation.

Your Details

Name:	Ann McAleer
Job Title:	Corporate Policy & Equality Officer
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May we contact you should clarification be required on your response?

Yes

(delete as appropriate)

This Consultation Response Questionnaire has been provided to assist in the process or you may submit a response in any format. Responses should be returned by email to equality@daera-ni.gov.uk or by posting to:

EqualityUnit,
Staff Engagement, Equality & Diversity Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Ballykelly House
111 Ballykelly Road
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Responses must be received no later than midnight on
04 July 2021

Responses received after this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement from the Department.

Questions

1. **Do you broadly agree that the action measures in the Draft DAERA Disability Action Plan will have a positive impact?** Yes, but please also consider the comments set out below:

If not, please explain why not, and add any further comments.

Mid Ulster District Council welcome the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the Department's Disability Action Plan. The Council agree that the actions contained within the Disability Action Plan are compliant with the Disability Duties and have the ability to have a positive impact of people with a disability.

However Mid Ulster District Council Elected Members have been made aware of significant challenges of people living in rural areas who use motorised scooters. They have referred to the nightmare of water, debris and large vehicles that both they and wheel chair users experience in the absence of appropriate pavements and walkways in rural areas. The inaccessibility of rural areas for people with a disability can also play a significant role in isolation and loneliness, which have been shown to have significant negative health impacts.

As such Mid Ulster District Council welcomes the action measure to create a DAERA Disability Forum and would encourage DAERA to seek members from the Mid Ulster District Council area and other largely rural based council areas. This will ensure that the groups benefits from the contribution of people with a disability with a lived experience of accessing services in a rural area.

The Council also welcomes that the Participation and Engagement section of the Disability Action Plan includes partnership working including with Councils and hopes that these plans are supported with the necessary time and resources to bring them to fruition. It is also encouraging that there will be a focus on increasing the number of students at CAFRE who have a disability. Council would be encouraged to see this increase reflected in the Loughry Campus in the upcoming academic years.

2. Do you have any other general comments on the draft DAERA Disability Action Plan?

Note: it would be helpful if commenting on specific items within the draft plan to refer to the particular Measure in question.

Mid Ulster District Council notes that the common theme, throughout the measures within the Department's Disability Action Plan, is enabling participation and contribution to public life from people who have a disability. However if people with disabilities are not supported practically in terms of access and inclusive services then participation becomes unlikely. As such Mid Ulster District Council would encourage the Department to ensure that physical and practical accessibility measures are considered as a mechanism to underpin this Disability Action Plan.

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING OUR QUESTIONNAIRE.