

# The Government's Response to the Transport Committee's Report on 'Disabled People's Access to Transport'

## Introduction



This is the Government's response to a report ("the report") by a Committee of Members of Parliament into disabled people's access to transport.

Tony McNulty, one of the Ministers at the Department for Transport, along with other bodies representing disabled people, gave evidence to the Committee in November



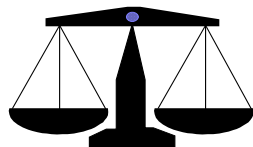
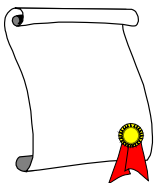
This response uses the word "we" a lot. When it says "we", it means the Government.

12 points were made in the report. These are in **bold** text below.

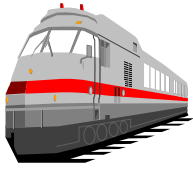
## Recommendations



**1. A great deal has already been done to make transport accessible to disabled people but more work is needed.**



We will keep trying to make things better. One of the ways we are doing this is through changes to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) which should improve access to transport.



**2. It should be illegal for providers of transport to discriminate against disabled people.**

We agree. We want to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against when travelling on public transport.



**3. Improving things for disabled people makes it easier for everybody else to use transport. The Government needs to keep these improvements going.**

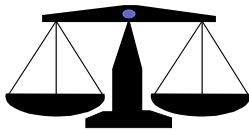


We know that accessibility benefits everyone. New laws mean railway and bus stations are getting easier to use. Transport vehicles are already getting easier to use and these improvements will continue.



**4. The Government should explain how it intends to strengthen disabled people's rights when travelling on transport vehicles and when these might be introduced.**

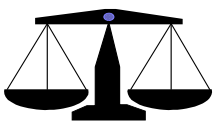
We want to do this as soon as possible. The draft Disability Discrimination Bill covers these rights.



**5. It is important that transport providers are given advance notice of any changes. This will allow them to understand how it will affect what they do.**



We want the Disability Rights Commission to produce a Code of Practice for transport. This would be available to everybody involved about a year before the new laws are introduced.



**Recommendations 6 and 7 are about a proposed new law - the draft Disability Discrimination Bill - which has been considered by another Committee of Parliament. They highlight the need for training in disability issues for transport staff.**

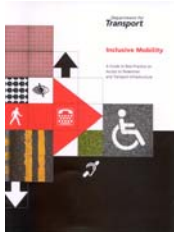


**8. It is important that disabled people themselves know how best to use the public transport system and receive training in making the most of the improvements in accessibility.**



We already encourage public transport providers to run sessions for disabled people so that they can get used to using new vehicles and services. We will continue to do so.

**9. It is easier and cheaper for everyone if accessibility is built into services from the start. People who design vehicles and stations should be trained to help them understand the needs of disabled people.**



We agree that this is very important. We are supporting a number of projects so that everybody involved in transport understands the issues. We have also produced good practice guidance to help those already working in the industry.



**10. It should be very clear which services are covered by laws and which should be left to the courts to decide.**



There should be guidance on this in the Disability Right's Commissions Code of Practice (see point 5).



**11. The railway system should be made accessible as soon as possible.**

All new trains must already be accessible to disabled people. We will be consulting on new laws to make all trains accessible by a certain date.



**12. If railway stations are accessible to disabled people, the trains that visit those stations should also be accessible.**

We understand the aim of this recommendation, but it would be very difficult to achieve for a number of different reasons.