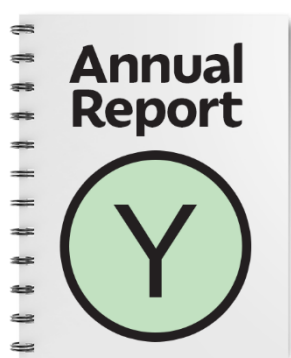




# Disability Equality Scotland



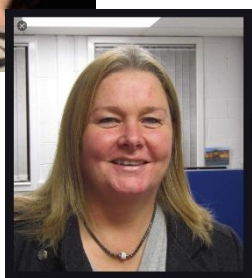
**Our work from 1 April 2020  
to 31 March 2021**



## Introduction from Morven Brooks and Linda Bamford



Morven is our Chief Executive Officer and is the main manager of Disability Equality Scotland.



Linda is the Convenor of the Board of Directors.

Board members are people who look at the work an organisation is doing and check it is working well.



Disability Equality Scotland wants to make sure all disabled people are listened to.

We will keep using what we hear to make change happen and make people's lives better.



We told the Scottish Government about disabled people being abused for being exempt from wearing a face covering.



We sent out the national Face Covering Exemption Card for the Scottish Government since October 2020.



We have done a lot of work but there is still a lot more to do.

We must make sure disabled people have equal choices and chances and can live the life they want.



We will ask questions of the Scottish Government and businesses to get them to treat disabled people equally and make sure they are included.



Our work has been about:

- accessible transport.
- disability hate crime awareness.



- communicating in ways that everyone can understand
- Access Panels improving access to buildings and areas across Scotland.





- working online.

Coronavirus has meant we have had to work in a different way.

We have a lot of information online and more people are looking at it.

More people are taking part in our online webinars.

In the future we will have webinars as well as face-to-face meetings and events.



- Weekly polls where we ask our members questions.

More people are taking part in the polls and we can tell Government Ministers and other organisations what our members think.

## The Board



Our Board members decide how Disability Equality Scotland works and what will be in our plan for the next 3 years.

Board members have lots of different skills and experience that supports our staff team.

## Our Team



The Board of Directors want to thank the staff team for working very hard during the coronavirus pandemic and making sure what disabled people need always comes first.



Disability Equality Scotland has enough money to keep doing its work.

We will make sure the organisation keeps growing and working to support what disabled people need.

## Report from Board members.



### What does Disability Equality Scotland do?

- We want to make sure disabled people in Scotland are included, treated equally and can access the things they want and need to live a full life.
- We work to make sure all disabled people in Scotland are listened to.





- We work to be an organisation that disabled people can trust and know that we are honest.
- We treat people with care and understand their feelings.
- We encourage communication between disabled people and national and local organisations.
- We tell more people about disability equality and accessibility.
- We work to make sure people think about disability in a positive way.



## What are our objectives – what we want to happen:



1. Disabled people are included and treated equally because there is good support and services and more people know about disability equality.



2. More people know what disability hate crime is and how to report it.



3. Access Panels will link up and support members in their work on equality and inclusion.

4. Access Panels will know more about access, inclusion and equality.



5. People who work in the planning and design of buildings and spaces can use our information and advice to support accessibility and inclusive design.



6. Disabled people will give their views about accessible transport and give information to the Accessible Travel Framework plan and how the work will be done.



7. People will find information and guidance on the Accessible Travel Hub.



8. Organisations will work together to stop disability hate crime and disabled people being abused on public transport across Scotland.

## Membership



We ask members what they think.

Members are at the centre of all our work and projects.

Their information and experience tells us what changes are needed to make sure disabled people are included and treated equally.



A lot more members have joined DES in the last year.

We now have 1296 members and 35 Access Panels.



We made a new Young Membership category and now have 5 young members.

## Our Newsletter and Open Door Magazine



Our newsletter comes out every month.

In the last year it has been an important way to give people information about health and coronavirus and what support there is.

## Face Covering Exemption Card Campaign



Information on who does not have to wear a face covering is online at: <https://exempt.scot/face-covering-exemptions/>



DES have worked with the Scottish Government to introduce a national exemption card. This started in October 2020.

You can ask for a card by going online to: [www.exempt.scot](http://www.exempt.scot) or call the free helpline number 0800 121 6240.



We have sent out 61,000 exemption cards and over 40,000 digital versions. 2,700 people have called the helpline.

## Disability Webinars



In the last year we had 6 webinars.

Around 46 people have been to each webinar – a mixture of disabled people, staff, organisations, Members of the Scottish Parliament and volunteers.

## Inclusive Communication Hub

[www.inclusivecommunication.scot](http://www.inclusivecommunication.scot)



The Inclusive Communication Hub is online in partnership with Sense Scotland and gives information about accessible information.

It has health messages about coronavirus in accessible formats.

It has information about things that are working well.



## Easy Read Service

[www.disabilityequality.scot/easy-read-service](http://www.disabilityequality.scot/easy-read-service)



Our Easy Read service makes written information easier to understand.

We are pleased to work with the Scottish Government on some of their easy read documents.



Last year we worked on 52 Easy Read projects.

A new Easy Read worker joined the team in May 2020.

## Weekly Polls

[www.yoursayondisability.scot](http://www.yoursayondisability.scot)

Our weekly polls help us find out what our members think.

We have had 52 poll questions and more than 10 thousand people replied.

Our weekly reports have given information to Scottish Government policy and guidance about coronavirus.

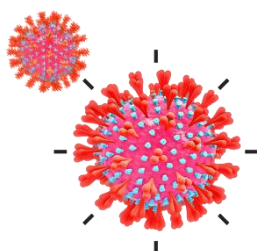


## Disability Hate Crime

[www.disabilitysafety.scot](http://www.disabilitysafety.scot)

The Disability Safety Hub started in October 2018

It gives people information to help them understand what disability hate crime is and how to report it.



The Hub also has information about:

- coronavirus support
- a mental wellbeing guide
- information about scams



## Accessible Travel

[www.accessibletravel.scot](http://www.accessibletravel.scot)



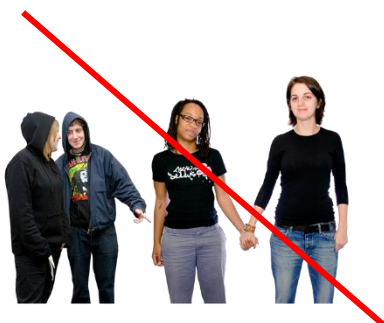
Lots more people looked at our Accessible Travel Hub this year.

It had information about changes to public transport, and the exemption card campaign.



We had 5 events on Zoom about transport and accessible travel.

## Hate Crime on Public Transport



<http://accessibletravel.scot/hate-crime/>

We worked with our partner organisations to start the National Hate Crime Charter in March 2021.



We put information and an animated video on social media.

The campaign had good feedback from Scottish Government Ministers.



Transport staff know more about what hate crime is and how to report it.

They want more training.

## Scottish Transport Awards 2020



Our work on the Hate Crime Charter was on the list for a Scottish Transport Award.

We were disappointed not to win.

## Inclusive Design Hub



[www.inclusivedesign.scot](http://www.inclusivedesign.scot)

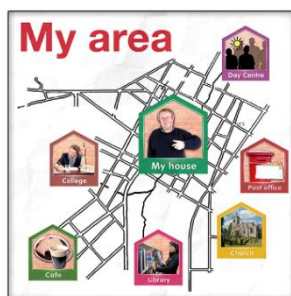
This Hub has information about good inclusive design that is useful for planners, developers, architects, and building staff in Scotland.

## Access Panel Network



There are 35 Access Panels with 1000 members across Scotland

A Panel is a group of volunteers. Most of them are disabled people, or care for a disabled person.



They meet every month to talk about things in their local area that affect disabled people and work to have equality and inclusion.



Access Panels used Zoom to meet during the coronavirus pandemic.

Lots more people came to the Access Panel Conference in 2021 because they could use Zoom and did not need to travel.

## Access Panel Grant



The Access Panel Grant is money to help the Access Panels do their work.

This year most Panels have used the money to help them work online.

They have been joined planning sessions and met with building contractors.

## Staff



Our staff are very important and have good skills.

We have good, useful jobs that are paid fairly.

Our Board members have a lot of skills and knowledge and experience.



People are on the Board for three years and are voted in at our Annual General Meeting.

Our Convener leads the board and offers support to our Chief Executive Officer.

## **Funding – the money we get to do our work**



The money for DES to work comes from the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland.



We also got money from the Transport Scotland Ferries Accessibility Fund.

We are working with the ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne about disability hate crime.

## **Exemption Card Campaign**



The card shows someone does not have to wear a face covering.

We send out the exemption cards for the Scottish Government.

We tell Government Ministers what people tell us on the phone helpline.