

# Disability Awareness/Technical Training



Eoin O'Herlihy B Tech (Ed.), M.Eng, MIEI, MIES.  
O'Herlihy Access Consultancy

E-mail: [eoin@accessconsultancy.ie](mailto:eoin@accessconsultancy.ie),

Ph: 087- 6394312.

Web: [www.accessconsultancy.ie](http://www.accessconsultancy.ie)



# Key Questions

- What is the first thing that you think about when I mention the word “Disability”?
- What key pieces of legislation must be considered in relation to accessibility of buildings and services?
- What are five key access considerations in the design of a leisure centre?
- What are five key access considerations in the design of a transport facility?

# Presentation Overview

- Background and context
- Why do we need to consider access?
- What types of 'access training' is available?
- What should the training cover and include?
- Building Types – Examples
- Conclusion



# Disability – The Facts

- 10% of the worlds population have a disability – 650 million people – largest minority (UN)
- European Union 15-20%
- Eurostat disability rate is 16.5%
- Census figures identified 9.3%
- Old age pensioners is set to grow by 75%
  - 2006: 226,000 people over 65.
  - 2026: 990,000 people over 65.

# Disability – The Facts

- % increasing due to population growth, medical advances and the ageing process (WHO)
- Only **17%** of people with disabilities are born with a disability
- **1 in 4** people will be affected by mental health in the course of their life (MIND)
- In countries where life expectancy is over 70 years, individuals spend an average of 8 years (**11.5%**) of their life living with a disability (UN)

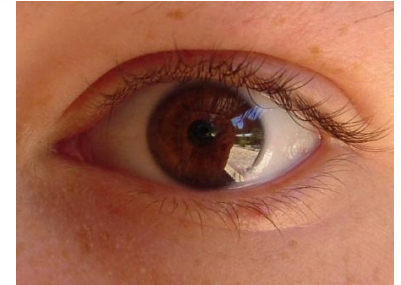
# Why do we need to consider accessibility?

- Business Case
- Social Case
- Moral Case
- Legal Case
- Population Diversity



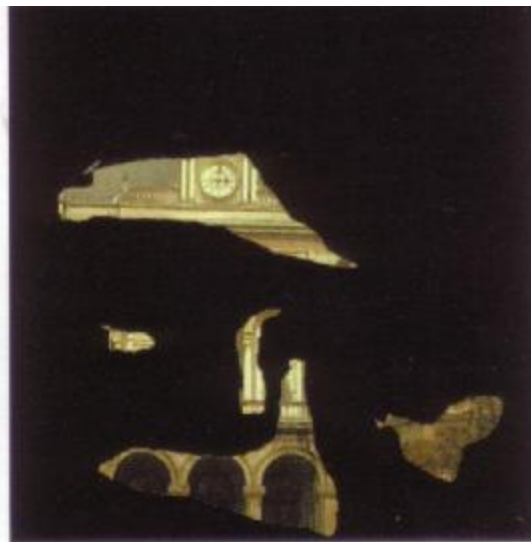
# Population Diversity

- Wheelchair users make up 1% of the population
- People with visual impairments make up 1.4%
- People with hearing difficulties make up 14%
- Older people make up 10% of the population





MACULAR DEGENERATION

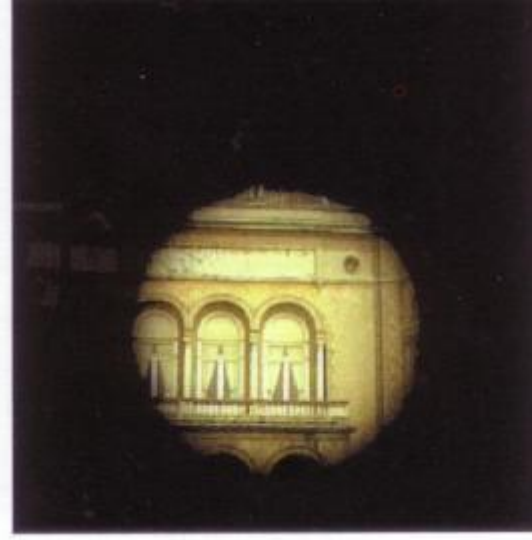


GLAUCOMA





CATARACTS---



RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA – Tunnel Vision



LIMITED VISION---



DIABETIC RETINOPATHY

# Why do we need to consider accessibility? – Legal case

- Building Control Legislation
  - Part M being updated in 2010
  - Introduction of Disability Access Certificates
- Equality Legislation
  - The Equal Status Act 2000-2004 prohibits discrimination in the provision of **goods** and **services**.
- Disability Legislation
  - Disability Act 2005 – Part 3, Section 25 – 29
  - DEHLG Sectoral Plan



# What types of access training are available?

- Disability Equality and Awareness Training
  - Legislation, Access to Services, Disability Awareness
- Access to the Built Environment
  - Legislation, Universal Design/Access criteria, Disability Access Certificates
- Access Auditing Training
  - Legislation, Universal Design/Access criteria, Disability Access Certificates, Design Appraisals, Specific building types; How to carry out an access audit?
- Course Specific
  - Access Officers; Libraries; Health and Safety; Heritage Sites.

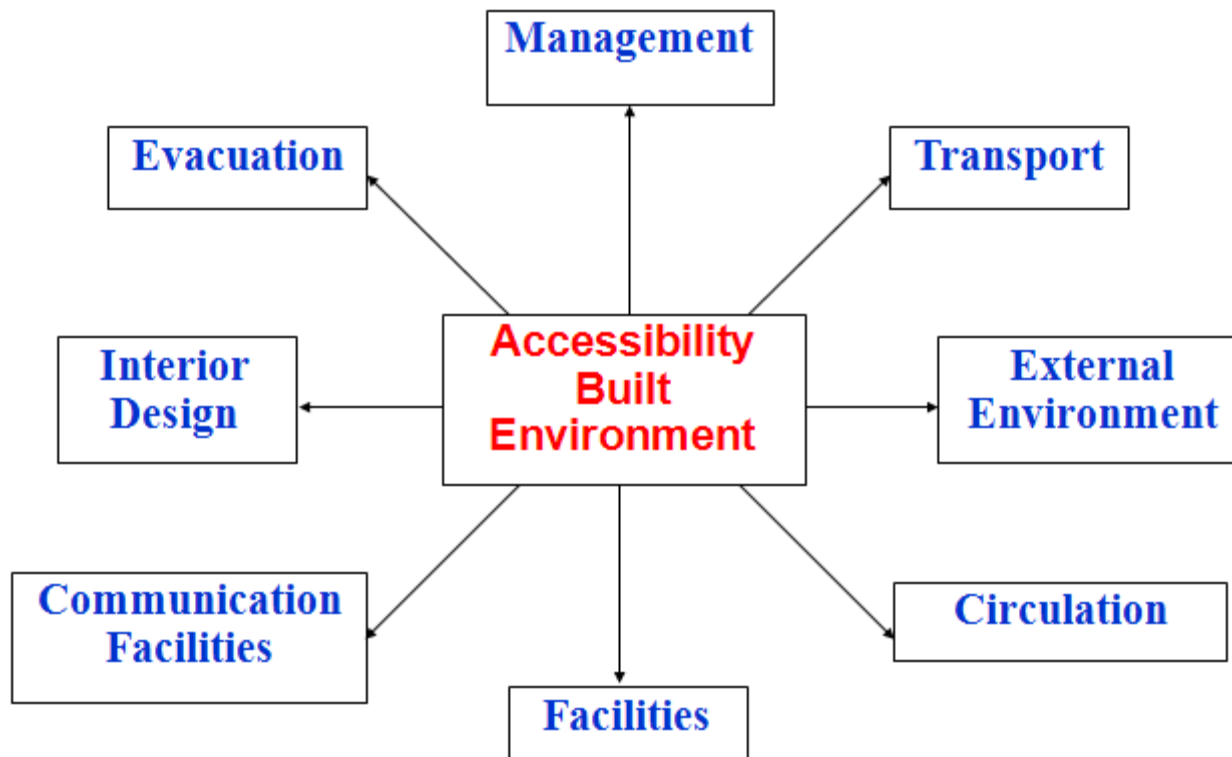
# What should the training cover and include?

- Highlight barriers that people with disabilities face as they go about their daily lives using:
  - Examples and Images
  - Videos
  - Case studies
- Outline relevant legislation, standards and policy issues in relation to access.



# What should the training cover and include?

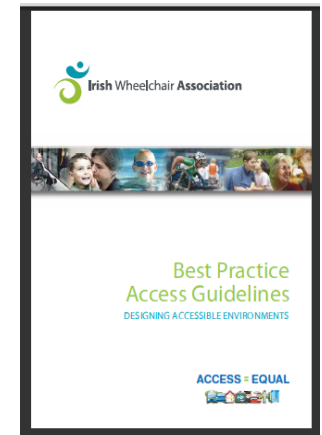
- Identify key design requirements to ensure the built environment is accessible:



# What should the training cover and include?

- Identify latest best practice design criteria and best practice resources:

- Examples and Images
- Videos
- Case studies
- Relevant texts



# What should the training cover and include?

- Information to enable participants to disability proof the built environment:
  - Identifying barriers
  - Review and marking up plans
  - Design appraisals
  - Procurement requirements
  - Access Auditing
  - Disability Access Certificates



# Building Types – Health Care

- Arrival and set down areas
- Reception and waiting areas
- Facilities
  - Consulting rooms
  - En-suites in wards
  - Living accommodation
  - Treatment Areas
  - Staff Changing facilities
- Wayfinding
- Interior Design





# Building Types – Leisure Facilities

- Approach and Entrances
- Circulation
  - Turnstiles
  - Floor surfaces
- Changing Facilities
  - Unisex accessible
  - Integrated changing facilities
- Access to Facilities
  - Gym
  - Swimming Pool
  - Sauna, Steam Room, Jacuzzi etc.
  - Audience and spectator areas
  - Playgrounds



# Building Types – Transport Facilities

- Information Provision
  - Wayfinding
  - Public Announcements
- Facilities
  - Ticket Counters
  - Waiting Areas
  - WCs
  - Ticket Machines
  - Cafes
  - Platforms
- Interior Design
  - Lighting
  - Surface Finish
  - Fixtures and fittings



# Practical Tips in Relation to DACs

- Identify User Needs.
- Consider all types of abilities.
- Identify journey sequence for users of the building/facility.
- Ensure all areas are considered (staff?).
- Ensure you keep up to date with changing legislation and best practice.
- Keep in contact with other Local Authorities

[www.accessconsultancy.ie](http://www.accessconsultancy.ie)



# Conclusion – Key Messages

- Legislation
  - Building Control
  - Equal Status Act
  - Disability Act
  - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act
- Introduction of Disability Access Certificates and the requirements for training
- Importance of identifying user needs and key facilities within a building
- Proposed Part M and its implications?

# Further Information

- [www.nda.ie](http://www.nda.ie)
- [www.universaldesign.ie](http://www.universaldesign.ie)
- [www.viron.ie](http://www.viron.ie)
- [www.accessconsultancy.ie/training](http://www.accessconsultancy.ie/training)

# Thank you!

- **Any questions?**

## Contact Details:

- Tel: 01-4151285 or 087-6394312
- E-mail: [info@accessconsultancy.ie](mailto:info@accessconsultancy.ie)
- Web: [www.accessconsultancy.ie](http://www.accessconsultancy.ie)

