

SUBMISSION TO DISABILITY MATTERS

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[COMPANY NAME] [Company address]

Cover letter:

I am making this submission as I am a full time wheelchair user and would like to point out some areas of concern that I have to live with as a wheelchair user.

It's time for Irelands wheelchair users to have equal rights and access to all public areas.

I would,definitely, be willing to participate in a public session at a committee meeting.

I am a self advocate,I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2008 and have been a wheelchair user ever since.

I am a married woman and proud mother to my 6 year old son.

In these past 16 years I have been a wheelchair user living in a non-wheelchair friendly world.

I am looking for change.I can point out areas that can and need to be worked on to make life easier for wheelchair users.

I believe the roll of self advocacy is to bring forward real life daily problems for people like myself that are wheelchair users.

It is very difficult for people to fully understand our needs, unless you are physically in a wheelchair going about your day to day life.

There are so many obstacles for us I can't understand why changes can't be made to make our life even possible. I believe in presenting these obstacles in the hope that things can change and move forward in giving us as many equal opportunities as others.

What is important to be on the agenda for an event like this?

1_How to make public areas more accessible

2Access to shops,restaurants etc.

3Making life easier for wheelchair users

4More localised support for wheelchair users.

I am unaware of any local advocacies to provide feedback to.

Key issues:

Accessible toilets in all areas.

Safe and useable footpaths.

Access to shops banks and all public buildings.

Solutions:

Hospitals should include the involvement of wheelchair users when designing all wheelchair facilities eg. Bathrooms.

Wheelchair equipment eg. Shower chairs should be designed using information and feedback from actual wheelchair users.

Availability of grants to modify existing facilities to make them wheelchair friendly.

I would like to be considered both to attend this event in person and/or online.

I have no problem in speaking about these issues in public.

