



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

**Dr Aideen Hartney,
Director,
National Disability Authority,
25 Clyde Road,
Dublin 4**

June 11th 2021

Re: Seating at bus stops

Dear Dr Hartney,

I am concerned at the ongoing absence of adequate seating at bus stops in the Dublin region, particularly for elderly and infirm persons of all ages and including persons living with disability whose mobility is restricted and who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

Following adoption by DCC of a motion to provide seats at bus stop I raised this matter with the National Transport Authority (NTA).

In reply, the NTA confirmed that in cases on urban streets where, in their estimation, there is insufficient footpath width for either an end panel on the shelter or for seating, the provision of seating would interfere with footpath movement.

Accordingly the NTA confirms they are unwilling to install seating at all new bus shelter locations.

Regarding older bus shelters at various locations around the Dublin region which don't have seating installed, even though there is sufficient footpath to allow its provision, in those cases the NTA can install seating into the existing bus shelter if there is a demand for such provision.

The NTA has invited me to nominate the locations of particular bus shelters for inclusion in a retrofit programme to install seating. I have a number of such locations in mind.

However, I am not satisfied that the NTA are taking full account of the mobility needs of elderly persons and persons in need of mobility supports in their overall approach to this matter.

On that basis I request an opportunity to exchange views with you on the issue and hear your advice on how universal design guidelines for the public realm can be utilised to advance and improve the overall NTA approach to the provision of seats at bus shelters.

I chair Dublin city's Working Group on Services to Senior Citizens and our next meeting is online for 15th July at 1200. I am happy to extend an invitation to you and colleagues to attend on this matter should you be available,

Is mise le meas,

Sophia Brennan P.P.

**Cllr Mary Freehill,
Labour Dublin City Councillor,
Member of Midland & Eastern Regional Assembly, HSE Forum & Dublin Belfast Economic
Corridor Committee.**

cc:

Cllr Alison Gilliland, Chair, Dublin City Council Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Dr Dáithí Downey, Chief Officer, Dublin City Local Community Development Committee
(LCDC)