

Accessibility Arrangements

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As 18.5% of the UK population are disabled, event organisers must ensure that their events appropriately address the additional needs of those who may attend their events.

If your event is ticketed, then you have an opportunity to find out the specific needs of the attendees in advance and amend your plans and provisions accordingly. If your event is a non-ticket event or you have no method of communicating with attendees in advance, then you need to assume that people with a range of additional needs will attend.

The Equality Act 2010 makes it illegal to discriminate against anyone because of their “Protected Characteristics” (i.e. their race, gender, age or disability etc.). The legislation also makes it clear that event organisers must make “reasonable adjustments” to their plans to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against.

Visit Scotland’s guide to Inclusive & Accessible Events reminds us that the disabled population represents an estimated 200 billion pounds in disposable income. So not only is it a legal obligation and good practice but making events more accessible and user friendly for those with disabilities can also be good for business.

It is highly recommended that event organisers review [Visit Scotland’s guidance document](#) in full before planning their events:

Areas which will help to make your event more accessible to disabled attendees include:

- Transport links and disabled parking arrangements
- Ground conditions and hard standing pathways
- Ramped access on to site and in to temporary marquees etc.
- Disabled viewing areas and raised platforms
- Sign language interpreters
- Subtitles
- Quiet zones
- Toilet facilities suitable for disabled attendees
- Clear signage with large text, symbols, braille and audio induction loops etc.
- Policy allowing assistance dogs to the event and providing areas for them to be fed, watered and designated areas for them to go to the toilet
- Policy on allowing carers/companions in to the event free of charge
- Catering for those with dietary requirements
- Staff briefings and training*

*Visit Scotland have also developed a [free online training course](#) below which is useful and should be considered as part of staff and volunteer training, inductions and briefings.

Once you have confirmed the measures required to make your event more accessible it is important that you communicate this to the attendees who may benefit from the information. Pre-event information is one of the key elements which disabled attendees look for in events. It is also recommended that you provide contact details to allow for more specific information relating to their needs to be provided.

Further Guidance

For assistance in developing your event's provision it is recommended that event organisers speak with the Aberdeen Disability Equity Partnership who will be able to assist with common sense measures which will improve the accessibility of your event and as a result the enjoyment of disabled attendees.

For further advice and guidance please contact the Aberdeen's Disability Equity Partnership (DEP) on 01224 523039 or email; equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk

