

**From:** [FireOx International](#)  
**To:** ["Irish Wheelchair Association";](#)  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** Public Consultation - IWA Future Strategy 2009-2013  
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**Attachments:** [IWA\\_CJWalsh\\_Evacuation-for-All\\_Built-Environment-Accessibility.pdf](#)

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## Public Consultation - IWA Future Strategy 2009-2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to make this Submission.

We would like to raise some important issues for incorporation in the next IWA Strategic Plan:

**1. Fire Evacuation** is a **Fundamental Component** of **Accessibility**.

Please see the attached PDF Presentation, which outlines a comprehensive framework for Fire Evacuation as that fundamental component of accessibility for every person in a community ... **Accessibility-for-All**.

**Evacuation-for-All**, as a new and urgently required national policy initiative, must be clearly elaborated in IWA's 2009 Strategic Plan and targeted for concerted action during the next 5 Year Period.

Please see detailed supporting information on our WebSite (Fire Engineering Division) - [www.fireox-international.eu](http://www.fireox-international.eu).

[Other Pages (Architectural Division) which might be of interest ...

Towards a Sustainable Social Environment, Accessibility-for-All & Facilitation Design (2001 WHO ICF) - [www.sustainable-design.ie/arch/adapthouse.htm](http://www.sustainable-design.ie/arch/adapthouse.htm) ;

Disability Rights & Removing Physical Restrictions on Participation in Society - [www.sustainable-design.ie/arch/removingbarriers.htm](http://www.sustainable-design.ie/arch/removingbarriers.htm).]

## 2. **Balanced Implementation** of **Evacuation-for-All** is **Essential**.

Please see the **Accessibility-for-All Matrix** in the PDF Presentation. Accessibility Guidance, at national, European and International levels, still tends to be written almost exclusively for people with mobility limitations. Token references to people with hearing and visual impairments, for example, are later grafted on ... almost as an afterthought.

This approach is entirely inadequate.

IWA should strongly support this valid contention in its 2009 Strategic Plan, and should vigorously promote a more co-ordinated and balanced

implementation of Accessibility-for-All ... in **Consultation** and **Partnership** with other Disability Groups and Organizations.

### **3. Accessibility-for-All Partnerships.**

The Quality of Accessibility-related Design, Construction and Management - **'Real' Implementation** - in Ireland remains atrociously inadequate. All of the Social Partners are to blame ... but particularly ...

- Design Professions & their related Educational Institutions ;
- Authorities Having Jurisdiction, e.g. Government Departments, Local Authorities, Health & Safety Authority, etc ;
- National Business Community.

Furthermore ... the word 'accessibility' is more commonly understood as relating to Transport Policy.

As a positive response, and using the current National Economic Partnership as a model ... the IWA should now encourage the establishment of Accessibility-for-All Partnerships at national, regional and local levels ... involving all of the Social Partners.

**It is a prerequisite, however, that the Disability Sector must begin to work together ... and present a common, unified and mainstreamed message on 'Accessibility-for-All'.**

Please see detailed supporting information on our WebSite (Sustainability Division) - [www.sustainable-design.ie/sustain/socialpartnership.htm](http://www.sustainable-design.ie/sustain/socialpartnership.htm).

Thank you once again.

C. J. Walsh,  
Architect, Fire Engineer & Technical Controller.

Member, CIB Working Commission 14 : Fire.

Member, CIB Working Commission 108 : Climate Change & Built Environment.

Member, EU 2004 Expert Working Group on Urban Environment Research.

Member, EU 2003 (EYPD) Expert Group on Accessibility.

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... for 'reliability-based' & 'person-centred' design solutions !

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