

South Dublin County Council  
Land Use Planning & Transportation Department  
07/11/2019

Dominic Mullaney  
Principal Adviser - Roads  
Minister's Office,  
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport,  
Leeson Lane,  
Dublin 2

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**Re: Provision of Pedestrian Crossing Facilities for Vulnerable Road Users**

Dear Mr. Mullaney,

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) has been approached by residents of Stewarts Care Facility to provide appropriate pedestrian crossing facilities adjacent to their premises in Palmerstown, Co. Dublin.

Stewarts Care provides a service to people with intellectual and physical disabilities. Their mission statement is:

*"...to support and empower people with an intellectual disability to live meaningful and fulfilling lives by delivering quality, person-centred services, provided by a competent, skilled and caring workforce, in partnership with the person, his / her family and community and statutory authorities, including advocates."*

The campus has over 1,000 residents and staff. Users of the facility are required to cross the Old Lucan Road in order to attend the facility from the nearest public transport and from satellite establishments connected to their main campus. The existing crossing facility is an uncontrolled crossing which the users feel is inadequate and unsafe.

SDCC has carried out a traffic survey as per Section 2.4 of the *National Roads Authority Pedestrian Crossing Specification and Guidance document, April 2011*. The results of this survey are shown in graph form on the accompanying attachment. This graph shows that the location in question does not warrant a signalised crossing due to low traffic and pedestrian volumes. However, in this specific instance we have searched for further guidance particularly pertaining to facilitating vulnerable road users with intellectual disabilities. It appears that no such guidance exists within Ireland.

The UK document *How to Plan a Pedestrian Crossing (LTN 1/95)* has contradictory advice and makes no reference to users with intellectual disability. The following are some extracts from this guidance document;

**1.1.4** "...It should not be assumed that the provision of a crossing alone will necessarily lead to a reduction in road accidents."

**2.2.2** "The purpose of a crossing is to provide pedestrians with a passage across a carriageway. Each type of crossing has advantages and disadvantages: the type chosen should be appropriate to the circumstances of the site and the demands and behaviour of road users."

SDCC is writing to request guidance for Local Authorities from The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport on assessing and providing crossing facilities for pedestrians with intellectual disabilities.

We look forward to your assistance in this matter so that we can provide the most suitable response to this and other similar requests which are beginning to emerge.

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Yours sincerely,



Senior Engineer

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