

# User-Led Accessibility Audit Report:

## CRANN and Science Gallery

Date Of Audit: **May 2024**


Audited By: **Glen Wilkie, Faolán Doecke-Launders**



Area Zone: 3




Premises Manager: **John Munnelly**

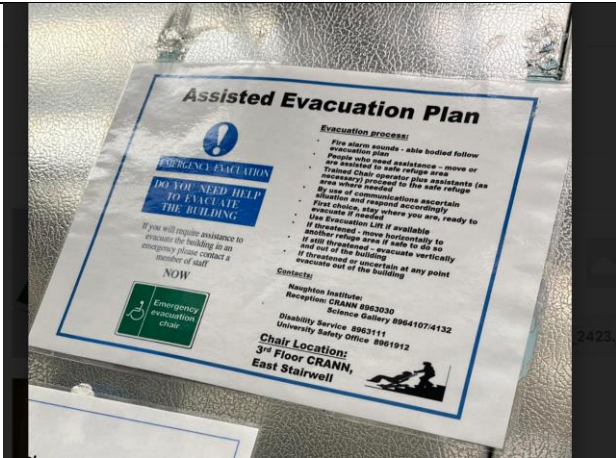
### Tabular Summary of Accessibility Issues

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Access Comment</i>	<i>Action Required</i>	<i>Image</i>
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Directional signage for the visually impaired	Directional signage throughout the building lacked any braille or contrast that would aid people with visual impairments to navigate the space freely.	Implement braille and significant contrast on your directional signage.	
Tactile surfaces near entrances and doorways for the visually impaired	No tactile surfaces are present by the entrances and exits of the building, restricting use of access by those with visual impairments.	Consider implementing tactile surfaces near the entrance/exit of the Science Gallery.	N/A

<p>Manuvering space within disabled bathroom</p>	<p>There is not enough space for the door to close with a wheelchair user inside the space. The space is obstructed by bins and other equipment.</p>	<p>Remove obstructions to enhance mobility within the space.</p>	
<p>Contrasting grab rails within disabled bathroom</p>	<p>The colour of the handrails present within the bathroom do not contrast with the rest of the space.</p>	<p>Consider changing the colour of the equipment to a darker shade to allow for visually impaired individuals to better identify the assistance.</p>	

<p>Issues with automatic door functionality in disabled bathroom.</p>	<p>The automatic door buttons need clear labelling to enhance usability as its unclear which buttons is designated to each door.</p> <p>The speed at which the door opens/closes is too quick for optimal usage.</p> <p>The door has no sensor to prevent it from slamming into the user.</p>	<p>Place clear labelling on the automatic doors while also reducing its speed and altering its sensor to notice a person when closing to enhance usability of the space.</p>	
<p>Difficulty operating lock in disabled bathroom</p>	<p>A considerable amount of grip and strength is required to operate the lock which limits privacy for some users.</p>	<p>Consider implementing a different lock system that requires less fine-motor ability e.g. hinge</p>	
<p>Emergency support in disabled bathroom</p>	<p>The cord was obstructed and attached to the railings which prevented its use in the event of an emergency. The functionality of the emergency cord to alert assistance was unable to be determined during our visit.</p>	<p>Readjust the cord so that it is easily reachable by the users of the space. Test the emergency cord to ensure that it alerts help with activated.</p>	

Emergency evacuation training	Evacuation procedures are detailed within the lift.	Ensure all relevant staff are aware and trained on the evacuation procedures present in the event of an emergency. Place signage in open space area.	
Sensory seating arrangements in open student space	The former café has seating areas for students/staff/visitors.	When constructing the new student space, consider a variety of seating options eg chairs, beanbags, stools and armchairs etc.	N/A

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## Appendix 1: Introduction to the User-Led Audit

### What is a User-Led Audit?

A User-Led Audit involves community members who experience accessibility challenges firsthand. These individuals will lead the evaluation of our physical and sensory environments to ensure our campus meets their needs effectively. This approach allows for authentic insights that are often overlooked in traditional audits, leading to more impactful and meaningful improvements.

### Why User-Led Audits?

- **Authentic Feedback:** Direct from community members affected by accessibility barriers, ensuring that changes reflect real needs.
- **Empowerment:** This initiative empowers those impacted by accessibility issues to contribute actively to solutions, fostering a sense of ownership and involvement.
- **Comprehensive Improvements:** Beyond compliance, these audits aim to enhance actual usability and comfort, making our campus welcoming for everyone.

### What is the Audit Tool being used?

The Audit Tool being used has been specifically designed for this initiative and continues to be constantly updated and developed as we move through each audit stage. The Audit Tool is an Excel-based program designed to streamline the data collection and analysis process for auditing accessible spaces.

The tool serves two primary functions:

- **Data Collection:** Users can systematically record detailed information about the accessibility features of various spaces. This includes inputting specific criteria and observations related to physical access, facilities, and compliance with accessibility standards.
- **Data Production:** The tool processes the collected data to generate comprehensive reports. These reports provide insights into the current state of accessibility, highlight areas of non-compliance, and suggest improvements.

### Audit Objectives:

- To conduct detailed physical and sensory access audits across the TCD campus, identifying barriers to accessibility.
- To engage with the TCD community, particularly those with disabilities, ensuring a user-led approach in identifying and addressing accessibility issues.
- To develop and implement actionable recommendations for enhancing campus accessibility, informed by audit findings and user experiences.
- To foster a culture of inclusivity and awareness regarding accessibility issues within the TCD community.

## Appendix 2: Reference Standards

- **Building Regulations 2010, Technical Guidance Document M (TGD M):** Access and Use: Provides guidance on complying with Part M of the Building Regulations for accessibility.
- **National Disability Authority (NDA) - Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach:** Offers comprehensive guidelines on universal design for accessible buildings and public spaces.
- **Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) - Best Practice Access Guidelines:** Focuses on best practices for designing accessible environments, particularly for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairments.