

CMR- 17-563084/17

Commissioner of An Garda Síochána
An Garda Síochána Headquarters
Phoenix Park
Dublin 8
D08 HN3X



21st December 2017

Dear Commissioner,

On behalf of Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) and our members I would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the introduction of Operation Enable in 2017. This has led to a dramatic improvement in the enforcement of the appropriate use of accessible parking bays in the Dublin area. In particular IWA would like to thank Sgt Peter Woods from the DMR (Traffic) Division in Dublin Castle for his incredible drive and professionalism in getting this operation up and running.

Currently, approximately 20,000 individuals living in Dublin have a Disabled Drivers Parking Permit, which are issued by IWA and the DDAI on behalf of the Department of Transport. However, there are only 740 public parking spaces located throughout the Dublin Metropolitan Region. Misuse of both the permits and spaces is widespread, and frequently reported by IWA's membership nationwide.

In this context, IWA was very pleased to work alongside the multiple agencies involved in the initial roll out of Operation Enable and to be in a position to develop and grow the initiative throughout Ireland during 2018. IWA looks forward to working alongside Sgt Peter Woods and the Garda Traffic Corps into the future, ensuring that motorists are aware of the consequences and importance of respecting Disabled Parking Bays and to remind Disabled Parking Permit holders of the need to respect the conditions attached to the permits.

IWA was delighted to see Peter's work being recognised by the Road Safety Authority when he deservedly received one of their prestigious Leading Light awards. The feedback that we have received from the disabled motoring community and indeed the public at large towards this operation has been incredibly positive. Since the commencement of the Operation, enforcement of these valuable spaces has received considerable necessary media attention and also significantly detected fraudulent use of the Disabled Parking Permit scheme.

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Company Registration No 352483. **Charity Regulatory Authority** CRA 20007997
Registered Charity No CHY 5393



IWA looks forward to the ongoing success of Operation Enable and will continue to assist Gardai in 2018. As per your talks with the European Traffic Police Network to roll out a planned European targeted day of enforcement, IWA's Motoring & Transport Department and Communications Department are available as always to implement and deliver a campaign to maximise awareness on this important issue.

Your ongoing support is very much appreciated by drivers and passengers with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



Rosemary Keogh
Chief Executive Officer
Irish Wheelchair Association