

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
Wednesday 12 DECEMBER 2018**

**1. QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR G HOOK
Re: Disabled Access at Railway Stations**

A recent survey stated that 40% of the rail stations in the country were unfit for use by the disabled.

What proportion of Devons rail stations fail the "disability test"?

Will the Council work proactively with Network Rail and Central Government to upgrade Devons rail stations and eliminate the problems faced on a daily basis by the disabled?

REPLY BY COUNCILLOR DAVIS

Of the 40 stations in the Devon County Council area on the national rail network, 26 have step-free access. Dawlish station is also accessible when the station is staffed; Network Rail are installing lifts at Totnes which will improve access at this station. Compared to the national average quoted as 60% of stations being accessible, in Devon 65% of stations are accessible, while over 90% of passenger journeys are made from accessible stations.

The responsibility for improving access to stations lies with Network Rail, DfT and the train operators. Devon County Council has recently written to support Great Western Railway's bid to the Department for Transport (DfT) for Access for All funding which would improve accessibility at Dawlish and Teignmouth rail stations.