

PRESS RELEASE (immediate)

Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) to provide FETAC training to companies and agencies across the country

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) has provided a high standard of training to public and private companies and agencies for many years and has now launched its new training programmes as a registered FETAC training provider with highly experienced trainers.

IWA offers several courses that will provide companies with the support and skills that will greatly enhance their staff and services. The courses offered are based upon many years of practical experience, in-depth knowledge and best practice guidelines and can be tailored to meet the specific requirements of companies and agencies. Training can be provided at various locations across the country, to private and public companies, government departments and County Councils as well as other agencies and service providers.

Training modules include Disability Awareness, Manual Handling/Handling of People and Occupational First Aid. Courses can be tailored to meet the specific needs of a companies/ services in areas such as; retail, manufacturing, service provision, medical services, transport, state, semi-state - in fact whatever a business or service requires.

For example, if you are hiring, or working with a person with a disability, IWA's Disability Awareness FETAC course enables companies and trainees to understand the issues facing people with a disability and how best to interact and contribute to successful outcomes. It gives you the opportunity to become aware of the relevant legal considerations associated with disability, become familiar with specific types of disabilities, how these can be understood and appropriate supports provided if required. Each company and members of staff are given practical advice which will allow them to apply the knowledge gained to the workplace and in everyday life.

Imelda Gaffney, Training Manager of IWA, commented: *"IWA has been providing high quality training to companies and organisations since 2000. We can now offer FETAC accreditation to customers committed to the development of their companies, staff and the quality of their service."*

For further information or photographs, please contact Imelda Gaffney 087 272 0498 or Mairéad Farquharson 087 2773270.

Additional information

The Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) is a national organisation dedicated to the achievement of the full social, economic and educational integration of people with disabilities as equal, independent and participative members of the community.

Our Association is made up of a vibrant network of 20,000 members and over 2,000 staff, as well as many dedicated volunteers. Together we work to achieve greater independence, freedom and choice for people living with a disability.

IWA provides a wide range of services including Resource and Outreach Centres, Youth Services, Holiday Centres, and Assisted Living Services.