

**For more information the following websites may be of some interest**

**Government/Regulation**

- <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/dda>
- <http://www.drc-gb.org.uk>
- <http://www.building-regulation.org.uk>

**Countryside Access**

- <http://www.fieldfare.org.uk>
- <http://www.pathsforall.org.uk>

**Transport**

- <http://www.transformscotland.org.uk/members/text/sata.html>

**Other**

- <http://www.sdef.org.uk>
- <http://www.rnib.org.uk>
- <http://www.jmuaccess.org.uk>
- <http://www.nwscf.org.uk>
- [Http://www.hccf.org.uk/forums/escf/](http://www.hccf.org.uk/forums/escf/)

**How do I become a member of Sutherland Access Panel?**

Membership of the Panel is open to anyone with an interest in disability or disability issues. For more details contact the Secretary at the following address:

P.O. Box 30  
Rogart  
Sutherland  
IV28 3YH

Tel/Fax: (01408) 641444

**OR**

E-mail: [shirley@escf2.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:shirley@escf2.fsnet.co.uk)

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Access  
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## **What is Sutherland Access Panel?**

Sutherland Access Panel is a group of people who work with and on behalf of people with disabilities and their \*carers to improve access to local buildings and to raise awareness of other access issues such as access to information.

\* A carer is someone who looks after a friend, relative, or neighbour and is not paid for doing so.

## **Who are Sutherland Access Panel?**

The panel is made up of individuals some of whom have a disability, their carers, people with an interest in disability issues and professionals. i.e. representatives of Highland Council Services (Planning, Building Standards, Tec Services and so on), Architects, Developers and other interested agencies.

## **What does the Access Panel do?**

Sutherland Access Panel works to promote the importance of an inclusive environment for all people. It believes that no member of the community, or any visitor to the area should be excluded from any aspect of public life because of disability. It does this in the following ways:

- Comment on Planning Applications for public use buildings. (Our comments are sent to the Local Authority and the Architect responsible).
- Providing information on good practice in disabled access
- On invitation, talking to groups and organisations.
- Meet with service providers to look over and talk about their premises. We can offer suggestions for improved access.

## **How often does the Panel meet?**

The Panel meets approximately once every six weeks, usually in Lairg, in an accessible building. Meetings typically take place during the day.

Meetings are open to anyone and are normally attended by Panel Members and professionals incl. Staff from the Highland Council.

A range of issues are discussed at meetings including Planning Applications, Access Issues or concerns and village issues. At some meetings the Panel will have a Guest Speaker.

## **Why is the Access Panel important?**

The work of the Panel is significant owing to the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.