

# RESEARCH REPORT

## Survey on National Disability Strategy Indicators 2011

Prepared for National Disability Authority



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## Glossary of Specialist Terms

- **Non-Disability Households** - Households in which there is no one with a disability.
- **Disability Household** - Household in which there is someone with a disability.
- **Disability (Self)** - All respondents who have a disability themselves.
- **Disability (Other)** - Respondent lives in a household with someone who has a disability.
- **National Sample** - Representative sample of the population.
- **NDA** – National Disability Authority
- **NDSSMG** - The National Disability Strategy Stakeholder Monitoring Group

# Research Report

# 1. Research Background & Objectives

The National Disability Authority (NDA) has commissioned and funded this research. Responsibility for the research (including any errors or omissions) remains with Ipsos MRBI. The views and opinions contained in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the NDA.

## 1.1 About the NDA

The National Disability Authority (NDA) is the national independent statutory body who advises the Minister for Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs on policy and practice relating to people with disabilities.

The National Disability Strategy, launched in 2004, aims to support the equal participation of people with disabilities in Irish society. The Strategy provides a legal framework for the mainstreaming of public services adopted by Government in 2000 and comprises the following elements:

- Disability Bill 2004
- Comhairle (Amendment Bill) 2004
- Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004
- Sectoral Plans from six Government Departments
- Multi-annual investment programme for disability support services

The National Disability Strategy Implementation Group is overseeing implementation of the Strategy. This comprises senior officials from the key Government Departments, agencies, and representing local government; the National Disability Authority; and the Disability Stakeholder Group, comprised of the main disability umbrella bodies and of individuals with lived experience of disability.

## 1.2 Survey Background & Objectives

The National Disability Authority has been working on a suite of indicators to examine progress to date on the implementation of the strategy. As not all indicators are readily available from existing data sources Ipsos MRBI were commissioned to gather this information on behalf of the NDA. This survey was an update of previous research conducted by RED C research agency in 2009. The intent of this survey was to measure the results against the results of the 2009 benchmark research.

## 2. Research Methodology

### 2.1 Methodology

Ipsos MRBI concurred with the NDA that an omnibus survey was the most appropriate approach to meeting the research objectives.

**In 2009** the benchmark Omnibus survey was supplemented with a separate booster survey to yield sufficient respondents who had, or were responding on behalf of someone with, a disability in their household. The booster survey yielded an additional 500 interviews which were weighted back in line with the Omnibus survey.

This survey was conducted by RED C.

**In 2011** it was agreed that the booster interviews would be conducted using one supplementary wave of Omnibus namely, Ipsos MRBIs' Omnipoll service. Collecting the booster interviews by Omnibus had the advantage of providing a consistent methodology throughout the study and would provide a robust representative of the population sample size of 1,931 adults 18+ as a base sample to determine the proportion of households in the total population who had a person/persons living with a disability in them.

This survey was conducted by Ipsos MRBI.

### 2.2 OmniPoll

OmniPoll interviews a nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults aged 15 or over every two weeks. To ensure complete coverage of the population, we use telephone numbers which are randomly generated by computer. In this way, we include those whose telephone numbers are unlisted in the telephone directory. 40% of the numbers dialed are random digit dialed mobile numbers, to reflect the changes in phone ownership patterns. OmniPoll is different from other omnibus surveys in terms of level of quota controls applied to each survey. Strict interlocking quotas are imposed to ensure representativity of the total population is achieved on each survey – see quota matrix below:

Population 15+	3,516m
Age within Gender	
15-24 Males	79
15-24 Females	80
25-34 Males	108
25-34 Females	111
35-44 Males	95
35-44 Females	94
45-54 Males	80
45-54 Females	80
55-64 Males	65
55-64 Females	64
65+ Males	65
65+ Females	79
	1000

Social Class within Gender	
AB Males	66
AB Females	69
C1 Males	135
C1 Females	140
C2 Males	116
C2 Females	119
DE Males	137
DE Females	141
F Males	38
F Females	39
	1000
Region	
Dublin	275
Rest of Leinster	266
Munster	277
Connaught/Ulster	182
	1000

## 2.3 Report

This report represents the results of the 2011 survey. Comparisons are shown on charts with the 2009 research where applicable throughout. NB: The incidence of households taking part in the research with a disability in 2009 is significantly greater than that achieved in the 2011 research.

In 2009 the RED C survey, an overall national figure was obtained by re-weighting the disability sample to reflect its share of the overall population and then combining it with the non-disability sample. Where base sizes are shown for the national sample these are based on the weighted sample base size.

In 2011 the Ipsos MRBI survey used a consistent methodology to conduct the booster and main survey i.e. via two waves of Omnipoll, the findings of both waves were combined and are therefore fully representative of the adult population aged 18+ years.

Fieldwork for the 2011 survey was conducted from 21st June – 14th July (over two waves of OmniPoll), earlier than the 2009 survey which was conducted between 19th – 26th October.

# 3. Incidence of Disability in Household

## 3.1 Definition of Disability

The definition of disability was taken from the question used by Central Statistics Office in the 2011 census. Disability is defined where someone reports one or more of the following conditions:

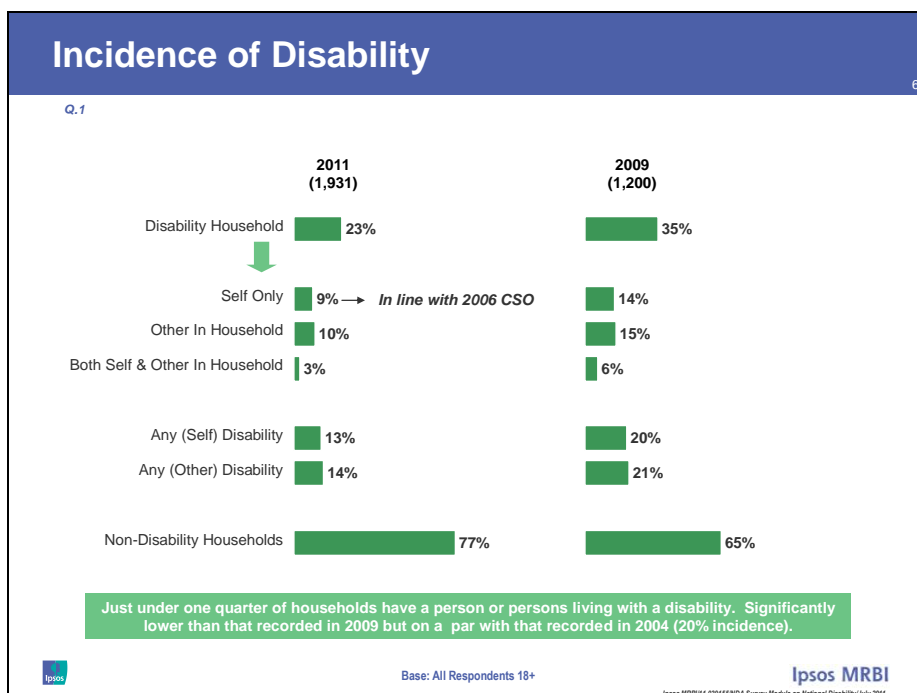
1. Blindness or serious vision impairment
2. Deafness or serious hearing impairment
3. A difficulty with basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.
4. An intellectual disability
5. A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating
6. A psychological or emotional condition.
7. A difficulty with pain, breathing or any other chronic illness or condition.

## 3.2 Findings

Amongst a nationally representative sample, the proportion of respondents living in a household where they themselves or another member of the household had a disability emerged at 23% (n=450).

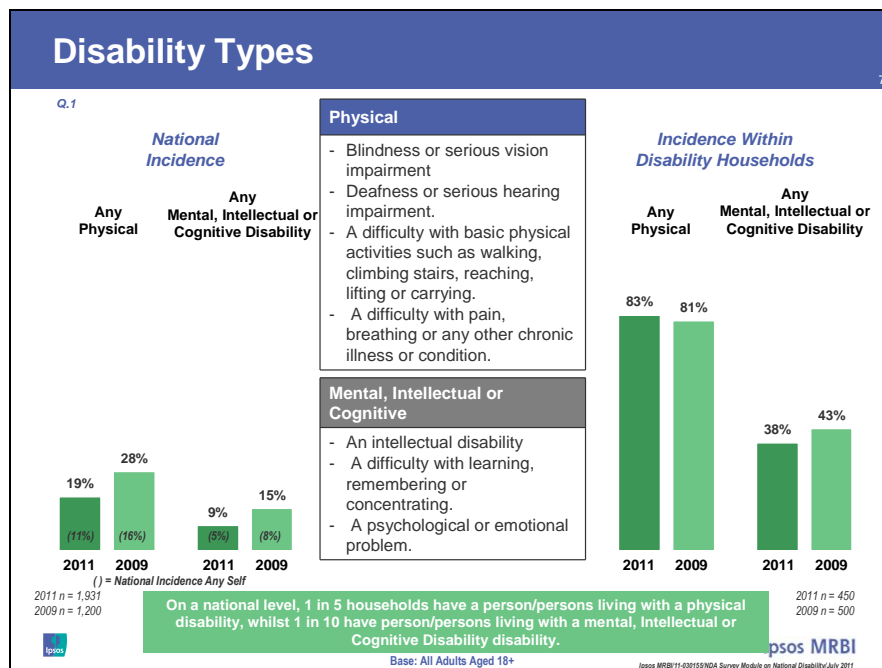
In total, 13% of the survey respondents identified that they themselves had a disability (n= 248). A similar proportion, 14% (n=261), lived in a household where another household member had a disability. There was some overlap where both the respondent themselves and another member of the household reported having a disability 3% (n=59).

### 3.2.1 Chart 1 – Incidence of Disability



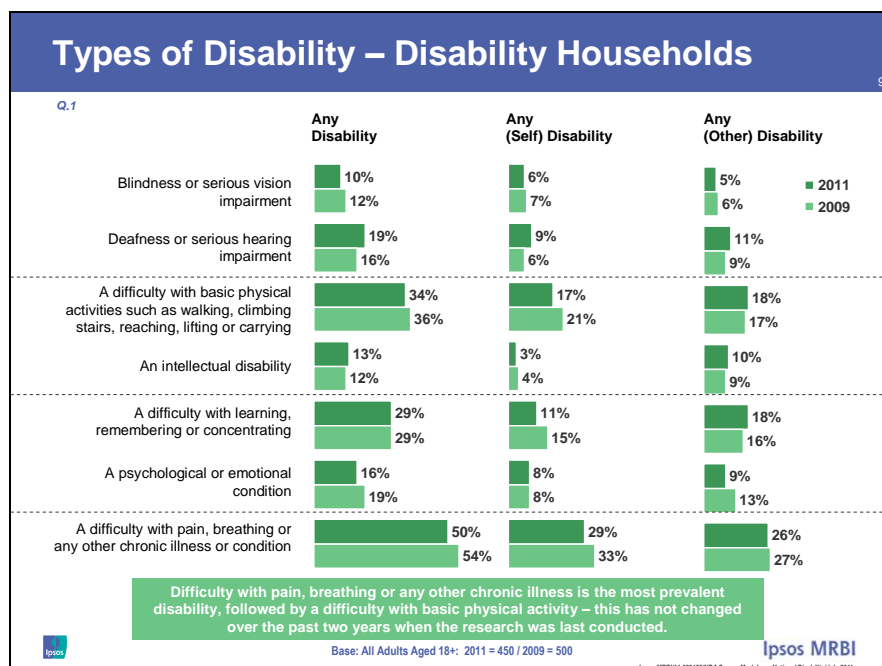
When disability types are categorised into physical and mental/intellectual /cognitive disabilities it emerged that at a national level 19% (n=368) households had a person/persons with a physical disability residing whilst 9% (n =171) had a person/persons with a mental/intellectual /cognitive disability residing. Amongst disability households (23%) this is represented as 83% with a physical disability residing and 38% with a mental, intellectual or cognitive disability residing.

### 3.2.2 Chart 2 – Disability Types



Difficulty with pain, breathing or any other chronic illness is the most prevalent disability with half of disability households experiencing. Followed by difficulty with basic physical activities with one third of disability households experiencing.

### 3.2.3 Chart 3 – Types of Disability

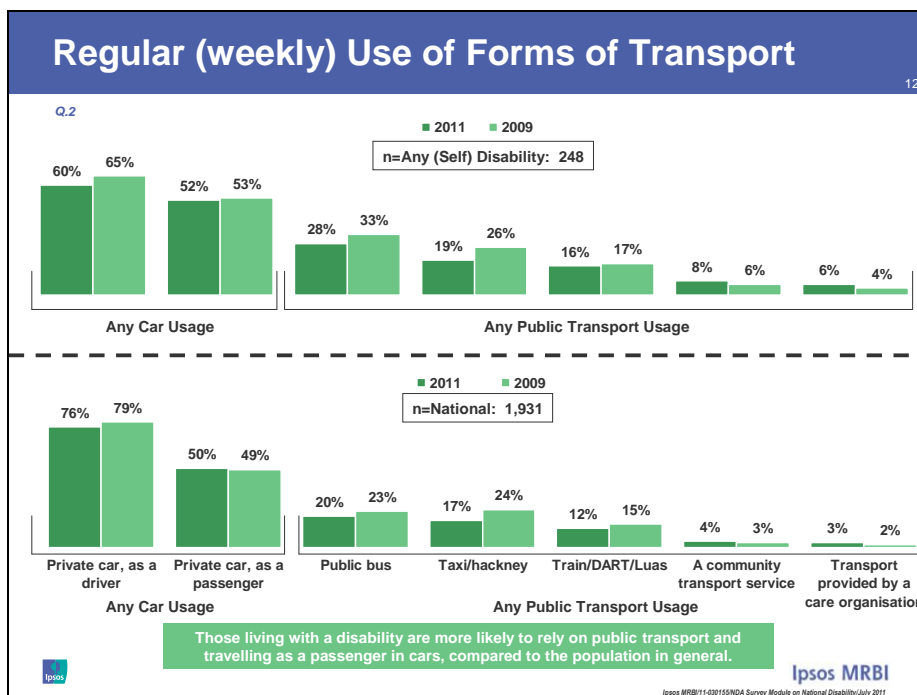




## 4. Regular Transport Usage

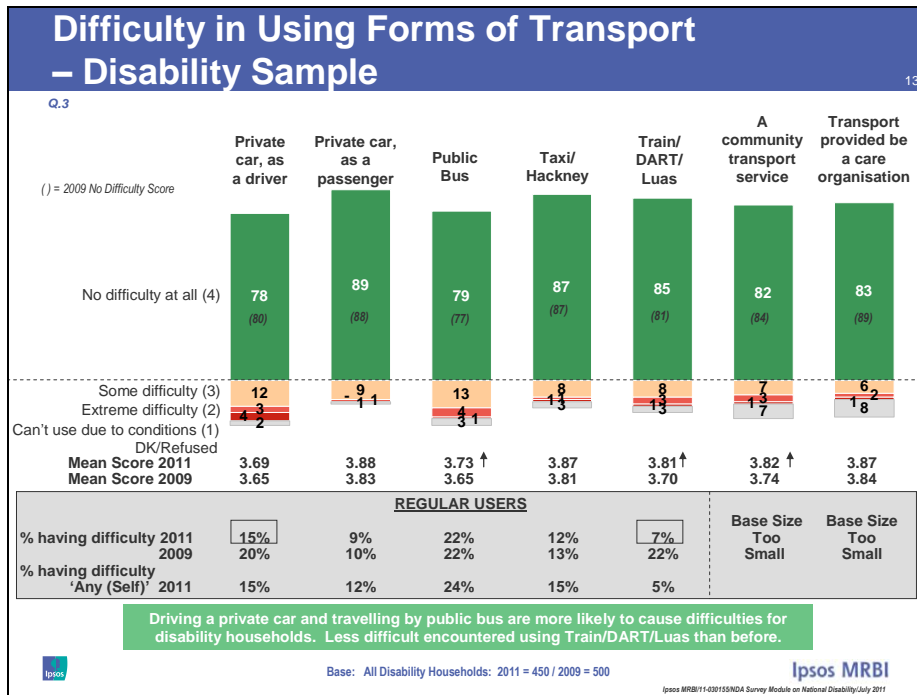
This section concentrated specifically on those who had a disability themselves and asked about their regular use of various transport types. The research found that those respondents who had a disability were less likely to use a private car as a driver and more likely to rely on using public transport, in particular community transport and transport provided by a care organisation (where they were twice as likely to use regularly compared to the total population).

4.1.1 Chart 4 – Regular (weekly) Use of Forms of Transport



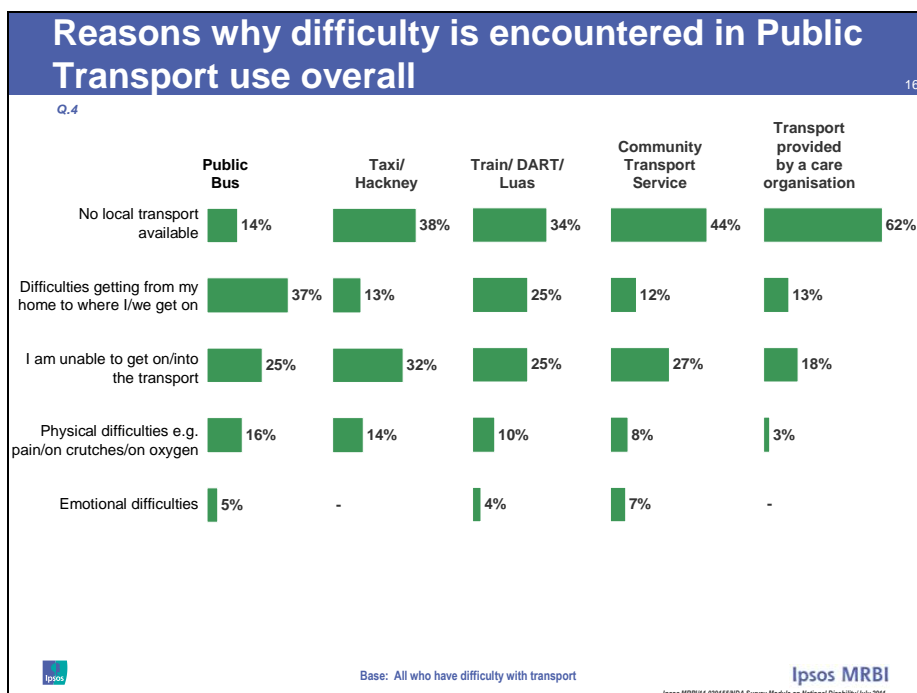
The majority of those who have a disability do not experience any difficulty when using the various forms of transport asked about, however there is a core percentage that experience difficulties. Using a Private Car and the Public Bus are likely to cause more difficulty than the other forms asked about in general, but amongst regular users of each form Taxi's/Hackney and the Public Bus are likely to cause more difficulty whilst the Train/DART/Luas is likely to cause less difficulty. See chart 5 overleaf.

#### 4.1.2 Chart 5 – Difficulty in Using Forms of Transport



The reasons for encountering difficulty when using each transport varies from 'difficulties in getting from home to where to get on' for those experiencing difficulties using the Public Bus to lack of availability of various transport types in the area where the respondent lives. However there is a number of people with a disability that are 'unable to get on/into the transport', least prevalent amongst transport provided by care organisations.

#### 4.1.3 Chart 6 – Difficulty in Using Forms of Transport

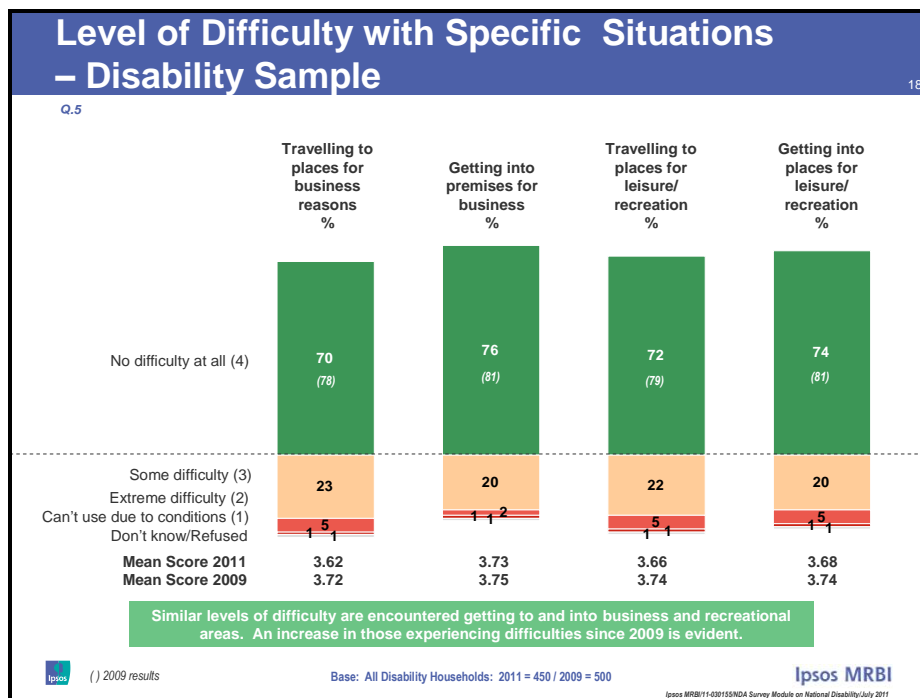


## 5. Everyday Difficulties Encountered

This section concentrated on the level of difficulties experienced by the disability household sample whilst in specific situations and when conducting general activities. Each respondent was asked to answer the questions on behalf of the person in the household with the disability, which was themselves in 13% of the cases.

Initially respondents were read out four possible scenarios and asked what difficulty if any each one caused, as follows in the chart below.

5.1.1 Chart 7 – Level of Difficulty with Specific Situations

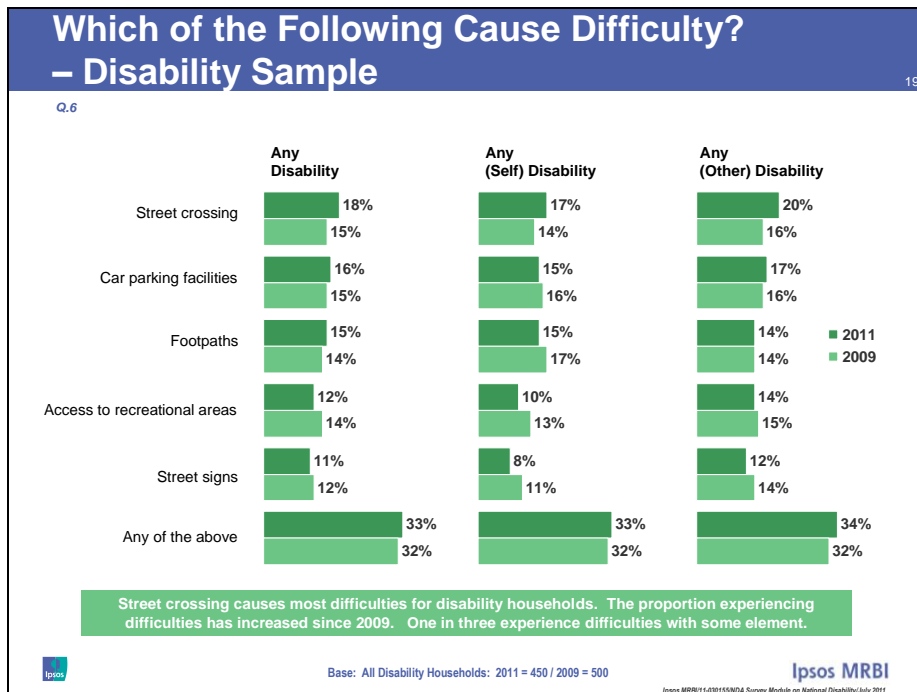


The research found that travelling to places for business reasons caused the most difficulty followed by travelling to places for leisure/recreation, getting into places for leisure/recreation and getting into premises for business. More than one fifth of disability households are experiencing difficulty with these situations.

Respondents were then asked about difficulties encountered, if any, with more general everyday outdoor environmental experiences namely; footpaths, street crossings, street signs, access to recreational areas and car parking facilities.

The research found that one third of those living in a disability household experience some level of difficulty with one or more of these outdoor environmental experiences, similar to the level recorded in 2009.

### 5.1.2 Chart 8 – Difficulties Caused with Everyday Experiences



## 6. Access to Community Facilities

This section focused on incidence of having to go up or down steps to access a range of places in the disability households local community.

The results showed that those in disability households were less likely to perceive these facilities as accessible as shown in table 1 below.

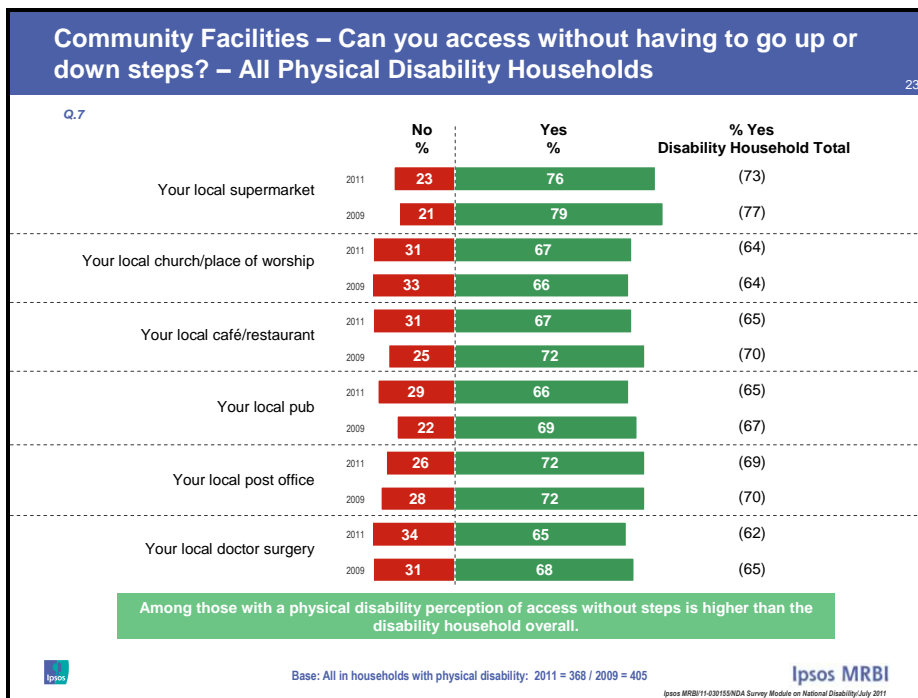
**6.1.1 Table 1 – Perception of Ability to Access without Going Up or Down Steps**

	% YES					
	National Sample		Non-Disability Household		Disability Households	
	2009 (1,200) %	2011 (1,930) %	2009 (700) %	2011 (1,481) %	2009 (500) %	2011 (450) %
Local supermarket	83	81	87	84	77	73
Local Post Office	80	76	85	78	70	69
Local café/ restaurant	76	74	80	77	70	65
Local pub	75	74	80	76	67	65
Local doctor surgery	73	69	78	71	65	62
Local Church/place of worship	72	72	77	74	64	64

Community facilities that have the lowest perceived access among the disability households is the doctor's surgery.

Chart 9 overleaf presents the responses from households where someone had a physical disability, as to whether their local community facilities could be accessed without having to go up or down steps. These results show that those physical disability households have a greater perception of access than the disability sample overall.

## 6.1.2 Chart 9 – Access to Community Facilities Amongst Physical Disability Households

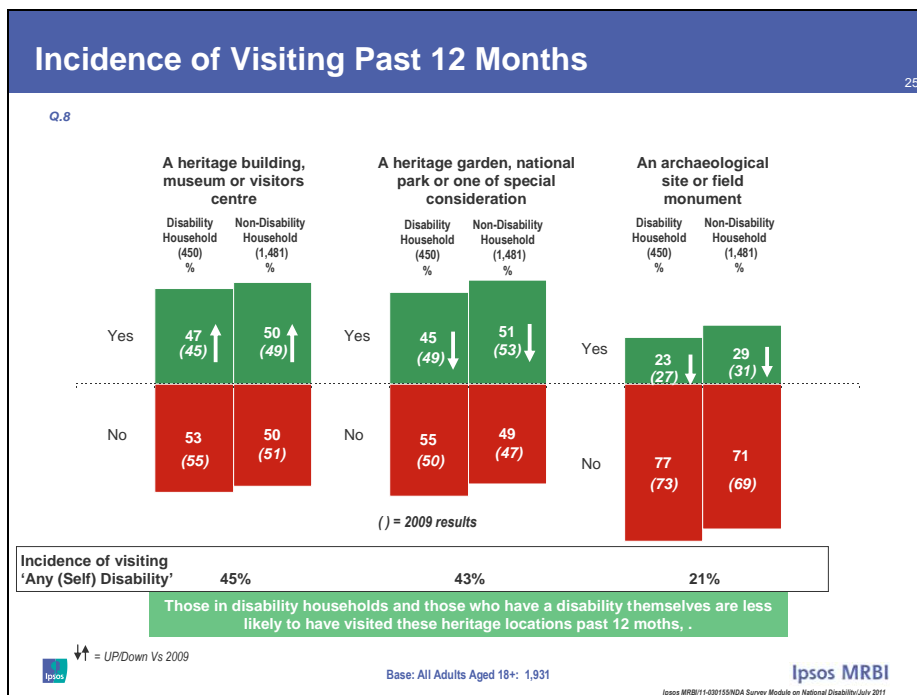


## 7. Heritage Locations

This section of the survey recorded the incidence of respondents visiting heritage sites, houses or gardens in the previous twelve months. Those who have visited any were subsequently asked what, if any, difficulty they encountered when visiting.

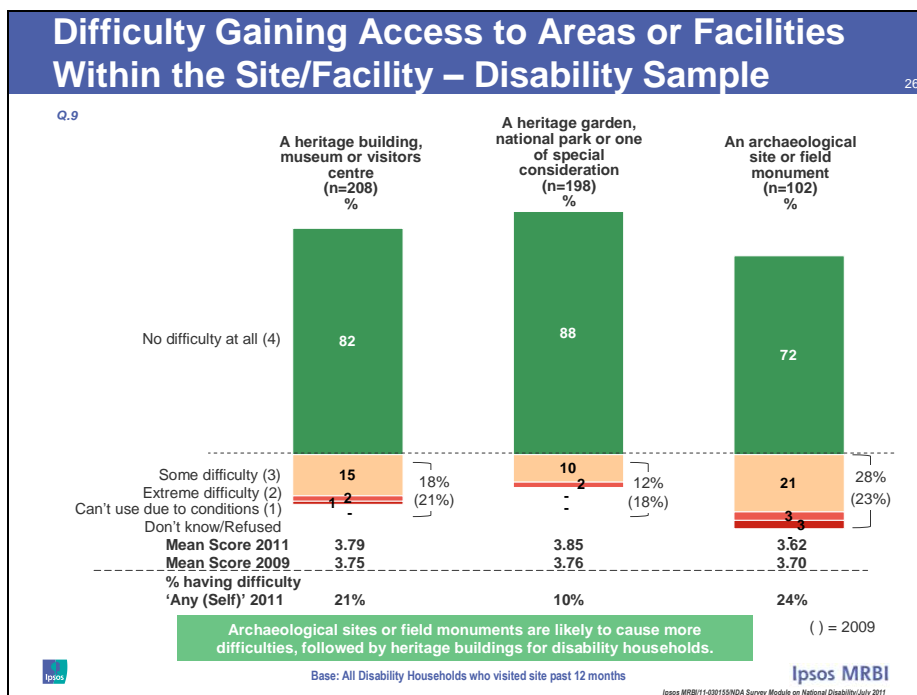
When comparing the disability household sample to the non-disability household sample the research showed that disability households were slightly less likely to have visited a heritage location as shown in chart 10 below. The gap widens when measured against those respondents with a disability themselves.

7.1.1 Chart 10 – Incidence of Visiting Heritage Sites Past 12 Months



Archaeological sites or field monuments are least likely to have been visited and are claimed to cause the most difficulty to access for those who visited (see chart 11 overleaf). A similar proportion claim to have visited; a heritage building, museum, visitors centre or a heritage garden, national park of which the later is likely to cause the least difficulty to access, particularly amongst those who have a disability themselves.

7.1.2 Chart 11 – Difficulty Gaining Access to Areas or Facilities within the Site/Facility



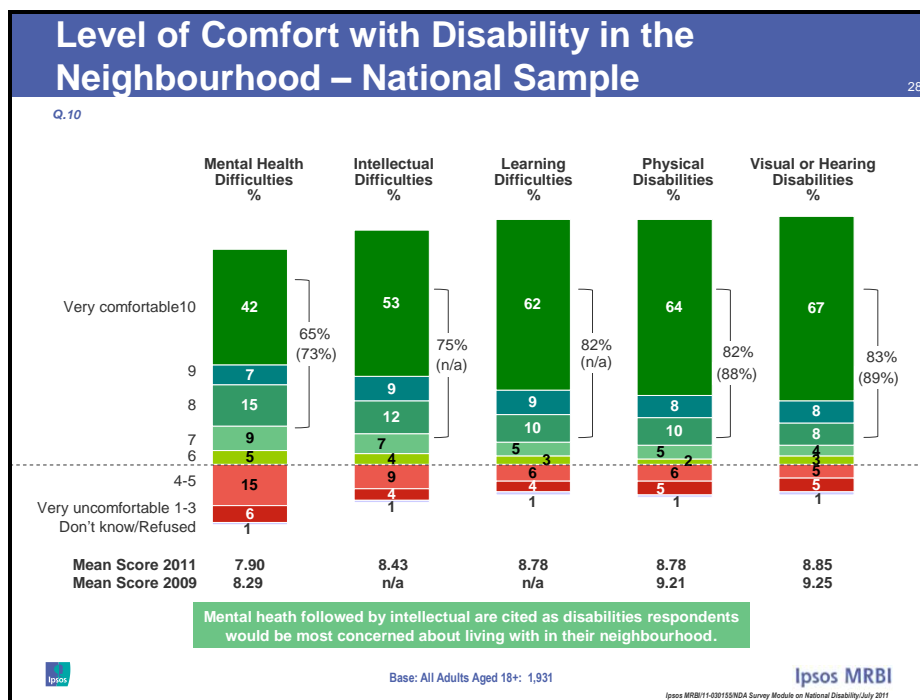


## 8. Disability in the Neighbourhood

This section accessed the level of comfort that respondents felt with people living with various disabilities in their neighbourhoods. These disabilities included; mental health difficulties, intellectual disabilities, learning difficulties, physical disabilities, and visual or hearing difficulties.

Respondents were asked to rate their level of comfort based on a ten point scale whereby one meant 'very uncomfortable' and ten meant 'very comfortable'. The research showed that whilst the majority of people stated they would be comfortable there was a proportion who would not be, in particular for mental health difficulties and intellectual difficulties.

8.1.1 Chart 12 – Level of Comfort with Disability in the Neighbourhood



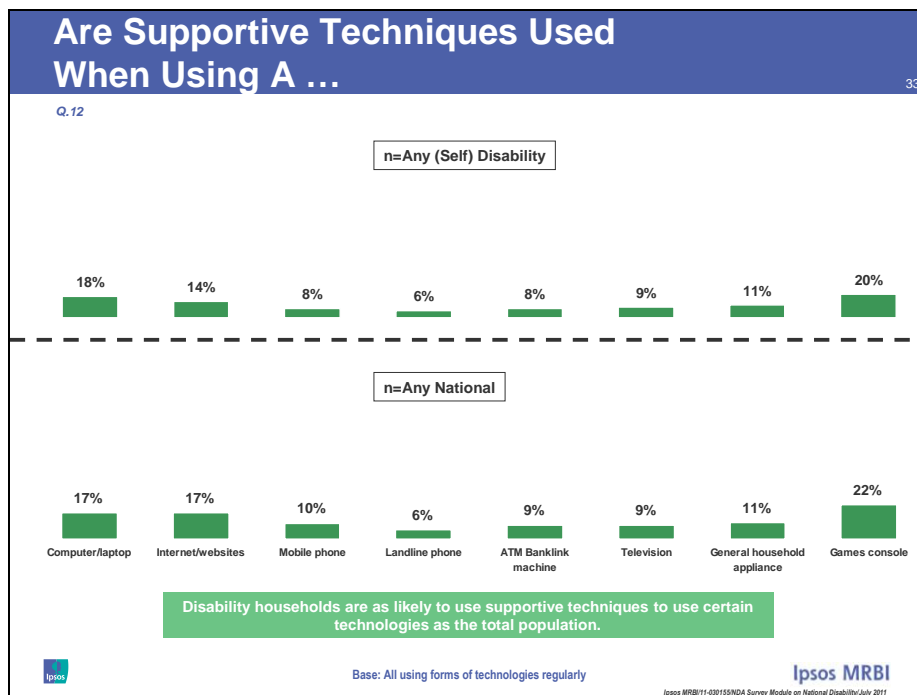
As show in the chart 12 above 20% of the total population have some level of discomfort with a person experiencing mental health difficulties living in their neighbourhood. When profiled these people are more likely to be male, in the 45-54 age category, C2DE social demographic and living in a non-disability household.

## 9. Technologies Used

This section focused on usage of various technologies, special support required and difficulties encountered.

In terms of usage those with a disability are less likely to be using certain technologies regularly compared to the total population. These are cited as; computer/laptop, Internet/Websites, ATM Banklink machines, and general household appliances.

### 9.1.1 Chart 13 – Use of forms of Technology



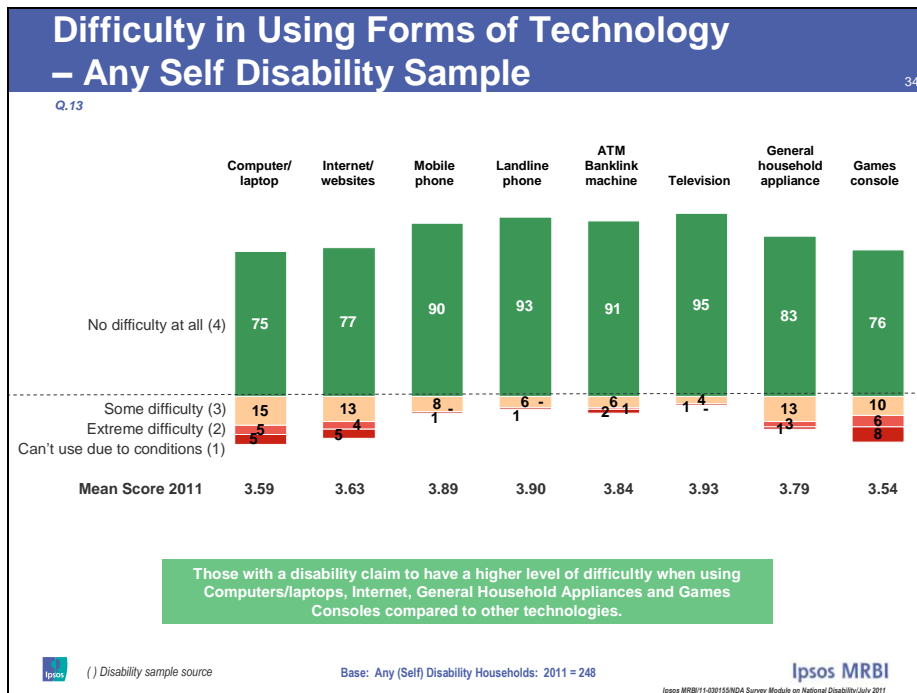
Those with a disability are slightly more likely to be using supportive techniques such as special software or hardware to help them use these technologies compared to those without a disability as show in the table 2 overleaf.

### 9.1.2 Table 2 – Supportive Techniques Used

	All using forms of technology	
	National Sample	Any (Self) Disability
	%	%
Computer/Laptop	17	18
Internet/Websites	17	<b>14</b>
Mobile Phone	10	<b>8</b>
Landline Phone	6	6
ATM Banklink Machine	9	8
Television	9	9
General Household Appliance	11	11
Games Console	22	<b>20</b>

Difficulties are more likely to be encountered when using computer/laptops, the internet/websites, games consoles, and general household appliances among those who have a disability – reflecting lower usage.

### 9.1.3 Chart 14 – Difficulty in Using Forms of Technology



## 10. Research Conclusions

Just under 1 in 4 households claim to have a person or people in the household who have some form of disability, 9% of those taking part in the survey were the only person in the household with a disability (in line with 2006 CSO).

Physical disabilities are more prevalent than mental/intellectual/cognitive disabilities. 8 in 10 disability households claim to have a physical disability compared to 4 in 10 claiming to have a mental/intellectual/cognitive disability.

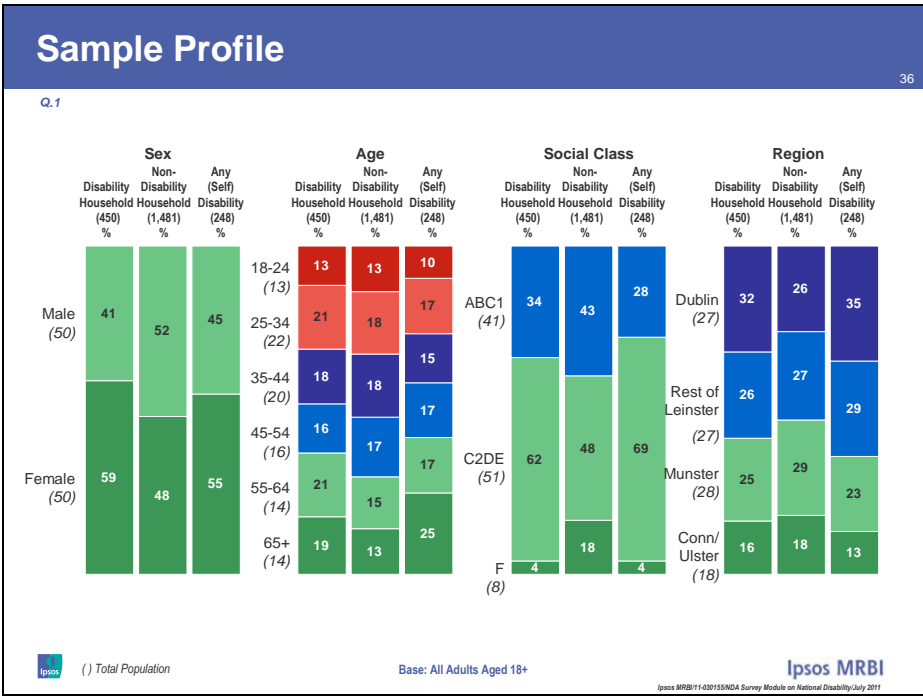
People living with disability are more likely to rely on public transport forms on a regular basis. Of those using the public bus, nearly 1 in 4 encounter difficulties. Difficulties getting to this form of transport is a key factor as well as ability to get on.

Only a small proportion of disability households experience extreme difficulty when visiting places for leisure or business purposes. However, on average, 1 in 4 do experience some level of difficulty.

Non disability households are not as comfortable as disability households in having people with a mental/intellectual/cognitive disability living in the neighbourhood.

Finally, people with a disability are less likely to use computers, internet, ATM machines and general household appliances on a regular basis. Amongst users those with a disability are as likely to require supportive techniques as the total population using each technology.

# Appendix A – Sample Profile



## Appendix B – The Questionnaire

**Q.1** Do you or anyone living in your household, have any of the following long-lasting conditions or difficulties. For each one I read out please tell me if it applies to you personally, someone else living in the household, both yourself and someone else living in the household or no one at all?

	Self only	Other in household only	Both self & other in household	No one at all
Blindness or serious vision impairment.....	1	2	3	4
Deafness or serious hearing impairment.....	1	2	3	4
A difficulty with basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.....	1	2	3	4
An intellectual disability .....	1	2	3	4
A difficulty with learning, remembering or concentrating.....	1	2	3	4
A psychological or emotional condition .....	1	2	3	4
A difficulty with pain, breathing or any other chronic illness or condition.....	1	2	3	4

**Q.2** Do you regularly use any of the following forms of transport? By regularly I mean on average once a week.

	Yes	No
Private Car, as a driver .....	1	2
Private Car, as a passenger.....	1	2
Public Bus.....	1	2
Taxi/Hackney.....	1	2
Train/DART/Luas .....	1	2
A community transport service.....	1	2
Transport provided by a care organisation.....	1	2

**ASK FOR ALL A-C FOR ANY STATEMENT AT Q.1**

**Q.3** Thinking again about these forms of transport what level of difficulty would you say you encounter or would encounter, if any, in using these forms of transport due to (a) your own condition mentioned earlier /(b) your household members condition mentioned earlier /(c) conditions mentioned earlier that affect yourself and your household member ?

	No difficulty at all	Some difficulty	Extreme difficulty	Cannot use due to condition
Private Car, as a driver .....	1	2	3	4
Private Car, as a passenger.....	1	2	3	4
Public Bus.....	1	2	3	4
Taxi/Hackney.....	1	2	3	4
Train/DART/LUAS.....	1	2	3	4
A community transport service.....	1	2	3	4
Transport provided be a care organisation .....	1	2	3	4

**ASK FOR ALL CODE 2-4 @Q.3 FOR PUBLIC BUS, TAXI/HACKNEY, TRAIN/DART/LUAS, COMMUNITY TRANSPORT, TRANSPORT PROVIDED BY A CARE ORGANISATION AND ASK FOR ALL A-C FOR ANY STATEMENT AT Q.1**

**Q.4** You mentioned you experience some level of difficulty using public transport. I want to try and understand why (a) you /(b)your household member /(c) you and your household member are encountering difficulty. For each method of transport where difficulty is encountered can you please tell which of the reasons I read out apply –  
So firstly thinking about..... **READ OUT FIRST PUBLIC TRANSPORT METHOD, READ OPTION AND CODE AS APPROPRIATE, REPEAT FOR OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT METHODS WHERE DIFFICULTY OCCURED**

	Public Bus	Taxi/Hackney	Train/DART/LUAS	A community transport service	Transport provided be a care organisation
There is no local transport available.....	1	1	1	1	1
Difficulties getting from my home to where I/we get on	2	2	2	2	2
I am unable to get on/into the transport.....	3	3	3	3	3
Other reason (please specify)	4	4	4	4	4

**ASK FOR ALL A-C FOR ANY STATEMENT AT Q.1**

**Q.5** Thinking again about (a) your own condition mentioned earlier /(b) your household members condition mentioned earlier /(c) conditions mentioned earlier that affect yourself and your household member. What level of difficulty, if any, does this condition/these conditions cause for each of the following situations? Please use a scale of:

	No difficulty at all	Some difficulty	Extreme difficulty	Cannot do due to condition
a. In <u>travelling to</u> places you need to go to for business reasons, such as work, the shops, or a hospital .....	1	2	3	4
b. In <u>getting into</u> premises you need to do business, such as work, the shops or a hospital .....	1	2	3	4
c. In <u>travelling to</u> places for leisure/recreation such as to visit friends or go for an afternoon or evening out .....	1	2	3	4
d. In <u>getting into</u> leisure or recreation venues such as to visit friends or go for an afternoon or evening out .....	1	2	3	4

**ASK FOR ALL A-C FOR ANY STATEMENT AT Q.1**

**Q.6** And again thinking about (a) your own condition mentioned earlier /(b) your household members condition mentioned earlier /(c) conditions mentioned earlier that affect yourself and your household member. Do any of the following cause difficulty for you/your household member?

	Self only		Other in household only		Both self & other in household		N/A
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Footpaths	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Street Crossings	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Street Signs	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Access to recreational areas	1	2	1	2	1	2	
Car Parking facilities	1	2	1	2	1	2	



**ASK ALL**

**Q.7** And now a couple of questions about local community facilities. Can you access the following places without having to go up or down steps?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Your local supermarket .....	1	2	3
Your local Church/Place of Worship.....	1	2	3
Your local café/restaurant .....	1	2	3
Your local pub.....	1	2	3
Your local post office.....	1	2	3
Your doctor's surgery.....	1	2	3

**ASK ALL**

**Q.8** Thinking about heritage sites, visitor centres, national parks, and similar places in Ireland – have you visited any of the following places in Ireland in the past 12 months?

	Yes	No	Don't know
A heritage building, museum or visitor centre open to the public .....	1	2	3
A heritage garden, national park or area of special conservation open to the public ..	1	2	3
An archaeological site or field monument, for example a standing stone, or ancient burial site.....	1	2	3

**ASK FOR ALL A-C FOR ANY STATEMENT AT Q.1 WHO ALSO SAID YES FOR A, B, OR C @ Q.8**

**Q.9** And again thinking about (a) your own condition mentioned earlier /(b) your household members condition mentioned earlier /(c) conditions mentioned earlier that affect yourself and your household member. When visiting \_\_\_\_\_ (**ASK FOR EACH a, b, or c YES@ Q8**) due to your condition what level of difficulty, if any, would you say you encountered gaining access to areas or facilities within the site/facility? Please use a scale of:

	Self only	Other in household only	Both self & other in household
No difficulty at all .....	1	1	1
Some difficulty .....	2	2	2
Extreme difficulty .....	3	3	3
Could not access due to condition	4	4	4

**ASK ALL**

**Q.10** On a scale of 1 – 10 where 1 is very uncomfortable and 10 is very comfortable, can you indicate how comfortable you would feel if people with the following disabilities were living in your neighbourhood?

	<b>Very uncomfortable</b>									<b>Very comfortable</b>
Mental health difficulties .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Intellectual disability.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Learning difficulties.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Physical disabilities.....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Visual or hearing disabilities .....	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

**Q.11** Do you regularly use any of the following forms of technology. By regularly I mean on average once a week? **READ OUT. ROTATE ORDER.**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
A Computer and/or laptop .....		
The internet/websites.....	1	2
A mobile phone.....	1	2
A landline phone .....	1	2
An ATM (Banklink) machine.....	1	2
A Television .....	1	2
General household appliances e.g. hoover, cooker etc....	1	2
Games console e.g. xBox, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS, Playstation etc. ....	1	2

**FOR EACH USED AT Q.11 ASK**

**Q.12** Do you use supportive techniques such as special software or hardware to help you use (INSERT FROM Q.11)? **ROTATE ORDER.**

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
A Computer and/or laptop .....		
The internet/websites.....	1	2
A mobile phone.....	1	2
A landline phone .....	1	2
An ATM (Banklink) machine.....	1	2
A Television .....	1	2
General household appliances e.g. hoover, cooker etc....	1	2
Games console e.g. xBox, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS, Playstation etc. ....	1	2

**ASK FOR ALL A-C FOR ANY STATEMENT AT Q.1**

**Q.13** Thinking again about these forms of technology, what level of difficulty would you say you encounter or would encounter, if any, in using these forms of technology due to (a) your own condition mentioned earlier /(b) your household members condition mentioned earlier /(c) conditions mentioned earlier that affect yourself and your household member?

	<b>No difficulty at all</b>	<b>Some difficulty</b>	<b>Extreme difficulty</b>	<b>Cannot do due to condition</b>
A Computer and/or laptop .....	1	2	3	4
The internet/websites.....	1	2	3	4
A Mobile phone.....	1	2	3	4
A Landline phone.....	1	2	3	4
An ATM (Banklink) machine.....	1	2	3	4
A Television .....	1	2	3	4
General household appliances e.g. hoover, cooker etc .....	1	2	3	4
Games console e.g. xBox, Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DS, Playstation etc.....	1	2	3	4