



Notes for applicants to become a DFI Associate

(To be read in conjunction with 'DFI Associate' - Application Form)

DFI Expectations of Associates:

Organisations/individuals can become associated with DFI through two channels. For voluntary disabled persons' organisations through the Affiliate Organisation Strand and any others, be they organisations or individuals, through the Associate Strand (see "Becoming a DFI Member Organisation").

Disability is now seen as an issue across society so the DFI Associate strand gives organisations/individuals, be they in the broad voluntary sector, non-profit, for profit, state or civil society sector an opportunity to be associated with DFI and similarly for individuals.

Whether through the Affiliate Organisation Strand, or Associate Strand, DFI has set out a number of expectations for all applicants. We recognise that organisations differ widely in terms of size, stage of development and the organisational issues that they are currently dealing with, or which might need to be addressed. Our approach is to get agreement to key commitments from the organisation which relate to progressively improving and deepening its disability commitment. This is set out as placing expectations on the organisation.

Our starting point is that all organisations who are associated with DFI are committed to improving the status of people with disabilities in Ireland and that they will progressively work towards that objective (see Clause 3 DFI Memorandum of Association). DFI will progressively assist organisations in that regard.

DFI Associates - Terms and Conditions

1. It is expected that on becoming a DFI Associate the organisation/person recognises that it has a responsibility to appropriately advance the inclusion of people with disabilities within Irish society and it undertakes to progressively take actions and / or to participate in activities which support that objective.
2. With regard to the above, DFI Associates (organisations) are encouraged to create a disability inclusion work plan.
3. It is further expected that DFI Associates (organisations) are continuously striving to achieve best practice in relation to disability awareness inclusion concerning its regular and ongoing activities and work.
4. DFI Associates will recognise the central role that voluntary disabled persons' organisations play in advancing the representation and inclusion of people with disabilities in society and will seek to assist them, as appropriate, in that role.
5. DFI Associates are expected to promote the work and relevance of DFI.
6. The DFI Board of Directors is authorised to consider applicants to become DFI Associates and to seek any further information and assurances that it deems necessary and in particular to ensure that any such applicant organisation or person is an appropriate one to promote the objects of DFI.
7. It will be expected that each 'DFI Associate' is continuously striving to enhance and or deepen its disability related commitments.
8. The organisation consents to filling out an annual/periodical questionnaire, and meet with DFI, if necessary, to provide relevant updates on the work of my organisation/myself as a DFI Associate.
9. Acceptance as a DFI Associate should not be represented as in any way conferring an endorsement on the organisation in relation to its services, products or activities.

Eligibility to become 'DFI Associate': Any organisation or part, unit, branch or division of an organisation be it voluntary, community, non-profit, for profit, State or civil society is entitled to apply to become a 'DFI Associate'. Any individual may also apply to become a DFI Associate.

Further information on DFI is available from our website: www.disability-federation.ie

Completed application form and supporting documentation to be returned to:

***Chief Executive Officer,
Disability Federation of Ireland,
Fumbally Court,
Fumbally Lane,
Dublin 8***