



# **ACCESSIBILITY AT GARDEN COURT CHAMBERS**

## Accessing Chambers' buildings and services

### **Introduction**

Garden Court Chambers is committed to ensuring its work place is fully accessible to all staff, tenants, pupils, clients, other members of the public and building users. This Accessibility Statement is intended to provide information about our buildings so they are both inclusive and accessible, now and in the future, and how this will be achieved.

### **Objective**

Garden Court Chambers aims to achieve the principles of an inclusive environment throughout its buildings to allow disabled people to participate fully as workers and visitors.

### **Scope**

This statement covers the following building: 57- 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields London WC2A 3LJ

### **Development of our facilities**

Garden Court Chambers took over its current premises in 2004-5 and commissioned a detailed report from Centre for Accessible Environments to guide the £2.3m renovation. The advice and guidance included:

- The need to maximise access to and use of the building and facilities for the public, tenants and staff
- Provisions in Approved Document Part M of the Building Regulations (AD M)
- Guidelines in BS 8300:2001 Design of Buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people - Code of Practice (BS8300)
- Current guidance on the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA)
- currently published good practice in design and detailing which meets the needs of disabled people
- need to observe reasonable functional and financial practicalities of implementing action to improve access

### **PRACTICALITIES**

Chambers has parking facilities for disabled vehicles and access into our main building accessible with the use of a wheelchair ramp. Our buildings and routes through them are wheelchair accessible in all the public areas with some restrictions in office accommodation on upper floors where there are steps. Chambers has a specially designed ground floor wheelchair accessible WC, shower and baby changing facility compliant with the latest access regulations for those with mobility or visual impairment. All floors are accessible through an internal lift with assistance.

### **PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSIVE DESIGN**

People are different in their needs and the way in which they use the built environment. An inclusive environment recognises and accommodates these differences in a way that is universal. An inclusive design provides a solution for everyone. The principle of an inclusive environment will be one that is:

- Easily used by all people without undue effort, special treatment or separation
- Able to offer people the freedom to choose how they access the buildings and allow them to participate equally in all activities we may host
- Able to embrace diversity and difference
- Safe and Fit for purpose
- Compliant with legal and best practice
- Include use of access statements for major projects

Our facilities are kept under review on an annual basis through an annual Equalities Report which is prepared by our Equalities Officer to our Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting. We welcome feedback on access arrangements which may be sent to [equalitiesofficer@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:equalitiesofficer@gclaw.co.uk).