

CURRICULAM VITAE LINDA SUSAN LING

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Linda has worked in the mobility market since 1983. She has excellent market knowledge of personal transport products available to people with mobility difficulties.

Clients benefit from her considerable knowledge and experience combined with a good empathy and realistic outlook to getting and staying mobile. Since she does not work for a conversion company she is unbiased in her advice whilst using her extensive up-to-date industry knowledge and contacts.

She is knowledgeable of the engineering of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) and all technical aspects, requirements and legislation for accessible vehicles, and particularly around the requirements for passenger safety.

She also has a good working knowledge of current automotive models, vehicle access adaptations and ancillary driving controls for disabled drivers. She works alongside RDAC (Regional Driving Assessment Centres), the Forum of Mobility Centres and Motability.

Linda uses her extensive knowledge & experience and industry networking abilities to give optimum and impartial advice to clients, case managers and lawyers. She is now building a credible Expert Witness portfolio in the Personal Transport sector.

She is passionate about improving the standard of information and products available to people with disabilities and continues to work at government level in the UK and EU to achieve this, whilst also keeping close to what clients really need.

She was awarded the MBE for Services to Disabled People in the New Year Honours List 2020.

EXPERIENCE

1983 - 2008 **Gowrings Mobility.** Grew the business from 56 – 2500 vehicles.

1985 - Made first wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV) available through the government Motability scheme.

1991 - Part of MBO team in management buy-out of Gowrings Mobility from the Gowrings Group.

1991 - Gowrings Mobility supplied first WAV onto the Motability contract Hire Scheme.

1999 - Initiated and set up Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Converters' Association (WAVCA) with other colleagues in WAV industry www.wavca.co.uk

2005 – 2008 **Chairman - WAVCA** (Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Converters' Association).

Led negotiations with European Commission in Brussels. Achieved recognition and regulation for WAVs and created legislation within the Automotive Framework Directive EC/2007/46.

2008 - present **Secretary-General - W.A.V.C.A.** – Linda runs the Association on behalf of the Members & Board of Directors, manages the PAS 2012 WAV Accreditation Scheme and represents the Association with various UK and EU stakeholders, continuing to negotiate terms for WAVs with Department for Transport and European Commission through various Working Groups (see below).

2009 – 2012 - Negotiated with Motability and BSi to initiate the development of a new UK standard for M1 WAVs. Developed PAS 2012:2012. As PAS Manager for WAVCA Linda continues as part of Steering Group to monitor and maintain the standard.

2012 - PAS 2012:2012 adopted as Motability's procurement standard for WAVs.

2015/2019 oversaw Reviews to PAS 2012. Current version is PAS 2012:2019.

2014- present **Secretary – OECVA.** Instrumental in setting up OECVA – a European Converters' Association which liaises with conversion specialists throughout Europe and continues negotiations with the European Commission on behalf of the WAV industry.

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2005 – present - Linda leads the delegate team for WAVs under Special Purpose Vehicle section of European Whole Vehicle Type Approval. Member of European Motor Vehicle Working Group held in Brussels. This involves scrutinising proposed legislation for issues which could affect the on-going production of WAVs throughout Europe, preparing justifications for change, lobbying the Commission and sometimes MEPs and presenting alternative solutions to the legislators in order to protect the specialist accessible vehicles industry.

2009 - present Managing Director - Accessible Motor Company Limited T/A Fleximobility

Developed new business model and set up Accessible Motor Company Limited. The Company offers mobility consultation and specification to private clients, case management companies, public sector authorities and care home businesses.

Fleximobility also has a fleet of WAVs (wheelchair accessible vehicles) and offers short, medium and long-term hire & lease of WAVs to private clients, charities, local authorities, health authorities and care home providers. See www.fleximobility.co.uk

Linda currently carries out most of the private assessments and consultations and is involved in the training of other staff.

2015 – present Linda has been an Expert Witness to the Court since 2015 on both Claimant & Defendant instructions. She is a Member of the Academy of Experts.

2020 Linda was awarded an MBE for Services to People with Disabilities in the New Year's Honours List of 2020.