

# National Register Access Consultants

## News Release

NRAC / 1 May 2014

### **The National Register of Access Consultants and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors collaborate on inclusive design**

On 1 April 2014, the National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC) and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) entered into a memorandum of understanding to improve engagement with stakeholders on the importance of inclusive design in the built environment.

The NRAC is an independent register of accredited access professionals who meet standards and criteria established by a peer review system. It is a UK-wide accreditation service for individuals who undertake access auditing and access consultancy, including surveyors, architects, building engineers and other competent professionals.

RICS Inclusive Environment Consultants will be supported in achieving membership of NRAC, providing them with a nationally recognised accreditation and single point of reference. NRAC benefits include, marketing opportunities, monthly news bulletins, conferences, and learning networks. NRAC and RICS will collaborate on training and professional development support for all NRAC and RICS members.

Together the NRAC and RICS will promote the same nationally recognised accreditation. This will make it easier for end users to identify the right professionals and for the industry to engage stakeholders on the importance of using access auditors and consultants.

This is such a positive step for the NRAC. The relationship with RICS has many mutual benefits, including:

[www.nrac.org.uk](http://www.nrac.org.uk)

- increased lobbying abilities
- shared learning and CPD platforms
- a wider network of potential new members.

The NRAC Management Board have been working behind the scenes for some time to secure this agreement and thanks to their support and hard work, it has become a reality.

Moving forward, the UKAS accreditation will further cement NRAC's position in the UK.

It is an exciting period for the NRAC and comes at a time when government are looking to industry-led solutions within design, planning and construction.

The NRAC, as a recognised national accreditation body of access professionals, has an important part to play, and a robust voice to be heard.

**ENDS**

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## **Notes to editors**

### **About the NRAC**

The NRAC was established in 1999 as a project of the Centre for Accessible Environments (CAE), a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was initially funded by central government. The Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Department for Transport and the former Disability Rights Commission continue to support the Register and are observers on the Advisory Group. The NRAC is a resource for those seeking

professional advice on how to develop inclusive environments in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

The NRAC online database can be accessed via the NRAC website, where a selection of reputable, accredited Access Auditors and Access Consultants can be sourced.

**[www.nrac.org.uk](http://www.nrac.org.uk)**

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