# Transcript

**Stephen**

I contacted the Isle of Man government with regards to accessibility because my local polling station during the last election had no wheelchair access. I thought with the election coming, if they were made aware of it now, it is better than being told the day before that there's an issue. So, I contacted the Isle of Man government. My email was passed on to a member of the Clerk of Tynwald’s office. And they responded quite positively that they were already looking into this, and that they would get it sorted.

**Beth**

Just tell us Stephen what happened then back in 2016, how did you, first of all, find out that there was an issue?

 **Stephen**

By attending the polling station, finding as a wheelchair user, I couldn't gain access because there were two large steps between the pathway and the doorway to the building. The staff within had to come out with a voting slip for me to fill in and the box for me to put the vote into.

**Beth**

And from your point of view, how did that feel being put in that position, where you had to cast your vote, exercise your right to vote in that way?

**Stephen**

It felt like not every member of the community had been thought about. It was just as case of there's a building; some people can get in - that will do so. I'm hoping this year as per information I've received from the Clerk at Tynwald’s office that there will be a ramp in place. They are still using the same building this year, so fingers crossed everything will be as they said it will be.

**Beth**

And something else you found out is that they have purchased some new polling booths which also hopefully will make life for you a little bit easier.

**Stephen**

Yes, and apparently it will be easier for the staff at the polling stations as well, because they're easy to put up and pull down. They can adjust the height of the table within the voting booth to be at the height of someone standing, or the height for someone in a wheelchair or someone who's of shorter stature. Statute is very important because it means that everybody in the community has the same rights and the same access, and the same means to be able to go out and cast their vote.