Access Rating Scheme

# Overview

The Access Rating Scheme is a voluntary initiative designed to rate businesses based on their physical accessibility, using a scale from 1 to 5. The scheme aims to make it easy for disabled individuals to determine whether the accessibility of a business meets their needs before they visit. Additional goals include raising awareness of accessibility requirements among businesses and promoting inclusivity.

# Objectives

* Empower disabled individuals by providing clear, reliable information about business accessibility.
* Raise awareness among businesses about the importance of accessibility.
* Recognize and promote businesses that prioritize inclusivity and accessibility.

# Branding

* The scheme is officially called the “Access Rating Scheme”.
* The main brand is ‘Accessibility Rating X,’ where “X” represents the accessibility rating of the individual business on a 1-5 scale.
* The WAS branding is used to distinguish it from potential copycat schemes in the future.

# Rating System

1. (Rating 1): Accessible to individuals with limited mobility, such as the elderly, blind or partially sighted individuals, and those using walking aids.
2. (Rating 2): Accessible to wheelchair users, with step-free entry, wide doorways, and manoeuvring space.
3. (Rating 3): Accessible and includes a wheelchair-accessible bathroom with grab bars and sufficient turning space.
4. (Rating 4): Accessible to wheelchair users and includes a "Changing Places" bathroom with larger space, a hoist system, and a shower.
5. (Rating 5): Fully accessible and equipped to accommodate multiple users with diverse needs, including facilities and plans for hosting accessible events or gatherings.

# Key Features

* Custom Stickers: Each rated business will display a custom-made sticker at its entrance(s), showing its rating and a QR code.
* The QR code links to the scheme's webpage entry for that business, where users can view the detailed assessment report.
* Multilingual Webpage: The scheme's webpage will be available in multiple languages, making it accessible to tourists with additional needs.
* Searchable Directory: Users can search the webpage by business name or location to find rated businesses.

# Voluntary Participation

* Businesses can apply voluntarily for a rating, paying a modest inspection fee of £30.
* Ratings are reviewed every three years or upon request (each reassessment incurs the £30 fee).

# Assessors

* Volunteers from consulted charities and the wider community will act as assessors.
* Assessors are not paid and will be trained through an online presentation covering the inspection criteria.
* Assessments will be conducted using online forms (compatible with phones and tablets) and include photographs of obstacles and features.

# Promotion Strategy

* The scheme will be promoted to the public and businesses through loosely pre-scripted videos made by volunteers.
* A key promotional message highlights the economic benefits of accessibility for businesses, emphasizing that improving accessibility attracts not just disabled individuals but also their friends and families.

# Consultation with Charities

* The scheme will be distributed for consultation to charities representing disabled people across the UK.
* These charities will provide feedback on the wording and criteria and help disseminate and promote the scheme after the consultation process.

# Potential for International Expansion

* While initially UK-focused, the multilingual webpage and scalable approach could enable the scheme to launch in other countries by replicating the process of engaging with local disabled charities and recruiting volunteers.

---

This document summarizes the core details of the Access Rating Scheme. Please review and let me know if any additional information or adjustments are needed.