

Jane Toplis, BA (Hons) Manch, RIBA, NRAC

Jane Toplis is a Registered Architect (ARB) and member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), working as an Accommodation Expert for Bush & Company since 2007. She has acted as an expert on behalf of over 50 claimants and defendants. Her advice has been sought on medical negligence claims, workplace injury claims and personal injury claims resulting from road traffic accidents.

Jane Toplis has specialised in the field of accommodation for a wide range of claimants; including wheelchair users, amputees, claimants with profound learning and physical difficulties, claimants with vision impairments and a range of other permanent disabilities. Some of these claimants have been based outside the UK in France, Germany and the Netherlands. She has also acted as an expert on cases brought under the Disability Discrimination Act (now known as the Equality Act).

Jane is a Consultant Member of National Register of Access Consultants (NRAC) and has acted as a Specialist Access Assessor for the Arts Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and Civic Trust.

Since 1986 her career has developed from working as an architect on residential and public buildings to specialising in accessible design and consultancy since 1997. Before setting up her own practice as an architect and access consultant in 2002, she worked with major companies that specialise in access and architecture (EC Harris Cost Consultants and Purcell Miller Tritton Architects).

She has carried out access audits of residential and other accommodation, including Ministry of Defence housing (Wiltshire), halls of residence for Oxford, Essex and Sussex Universities and hospitals including those under the care of Wiltshire Health Authority and Tower Hamlets Health Authority. Another role is advising architects and clients on architectural projects including; The Hepworth Gallery (Wakefield), Stonehenge Visitor Centre for English Heritage, Theatre Royal (Bath), Peepul Centre (Leicester), Tudor House Museum (Southampton) and National Carnival Arts Centre (Luton). Her work includes narrative reports on clients' obligations under the Equality Act (formally Disability Discrimination Act), providing costed recommendations and giving presentations on audit findings to clients.