

BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

BRIGHTON

AUGUST 2026

**WATERBEAR
EDUCATION LTD.**



The College of Music

ABOUT US

WATERBEAR EDUCATION

WaterBear offer BA (Hons) degree and master's courses made for today's musicians, artists and industry professionals. We're about smaller class sizes, flexible course delivery, bespoke one-to-one mentoring and exclusive work experience and career development opportunities. We're based in the heart of Brighton, one of the UK's most exciting cities for music and the arts. We also have a range of online distance learning courses too. WaterBear is a College of Falmouth University, a pioneer in creative industries education, entrepreneurship and innovation.

We offer what we term a 'city-wide campus' approach, a part of the WaterBear student experience that involves teaching and learning activities being scheduled in established music venues, studios and rehearsal facilities in the city, as well as in our own dedicated WaterBear campus buildings.

We currently offer one building of full access for mobility-impaired individuals, which is our HQ building on Queens Road (see below). Other spaces utilised for teaching and learning activities as part of our city-wide campus approach also have partial wheelchair access. With regards those suffering cognitive impairments, we have procedures in place to identify specific needs and requirements and offer appropriate support.

This statement document aims to summarise mobility, audio and visual aids and considerations relating to each of the WaterBear campus buildings and outsourced spaces for the academic year 26-27.

The statement below is based on an internal assessment. In the case of external venues, the information has been provided by the venues themselves and is based on their own internal assessment.

BUILDINGS OVERVIEW

WATERBEAR HQ

**Hanover House, 118 Queens Road,
Brighton, BN1 3XG**

The WaterBear 'HQ' building is situated 350 yards from Brighton central train station, with the main entrance located on Queens Road, with excellent public transport facilities.



The 'HQ' building spans seven floors and is a well-equipped space, suitable for hosting both on-site and online seminars and lectures, student support sessions, and independent study. It boasts four media suites, three mixing suites and a recording studio with industry standard analogue and digital mixing desks and outboard equipment. There are multiple seminar teaching spaces and 1-1 meeting rooms, as well as four individual rehearsal rooms and a library. Housed in the building are a range of dedicated student support facilities throughout the building, where students can access wellbeing services, academic support, learning support, and artist development guidance from our Student Services, Education, Learning Support, and Artist Development teams. The 'HQ' building also serves as the main base for staff, providing shared office space and a staffroom on the top floor. The main entrance offers a welcoming reception area, accompanied by student study common room space. The building allows full wheelchair access to all floors and rooms. Accessible lavatories are located on the lower ground floor and fourth floor.

APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is located on a main road and thoroughfare with easy access to city-wide and county-wide public transport, as well as national rail services via Brighton central train station, just 350 yards away. Whilst WaterBear does not have its own parking facilities, there is a large public carpark within 140 yards of the 'HQ' building (2-minute walk). The route to the building does have small kerbs, but there are 'drop kerbs' at regular intervals with surfaces well maintained, smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for wheelchair access. The approach is free from hazards such

as bollards, litter bins and any outward opening windows or doors and there are no overhanging projections. The area is well lit. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and any other debris; there are no steps. If approaching from the nearest public carpark, the route to the 'HQ' entrance includes a moderate incline up North Road.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The main entrance door is clearly distinguishable from the façade, it is glass but visible when closed. The clear door opening easily permits passage of a wheelchair, the threshold is level and there is clear visibility through the doorway from both sides at standing and seated levels. There is adequate wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the door to clear door swing and door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and is easily grasped and operated. There is an entry system fitted to the door which utilises mobile phones or key fobs, the scan pad for this system is accessible from both standing and seated positions. The door and reception area are well lit, and signage is clear and well positioned. Floor surfaces are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. The reception area is suitable for approach and use by people in standing and seated positions.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors and passageways are wide enough for wheelchair users to manoeuvre and for other people to pass by. Corridors are free from obstruction and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Wheelchair users can clear one door before approaching another and there is space to turn. Light avoids glare and silhouetting. All floor surfaces are either hard vinyl or short-pile carpet, allowing ease of movement for wheelchair users. There is minimal light reflection, and acoustic treatment has been applied to walls to reduce sound reverberation. Direction and information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels and are written clearly to aid reading by those with impaired vision. The building is well maintained and kept clear of obstructions to reduce any potential hazard for those with impaired vision. Seating arrangements and spaces are suitable for people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

The location of any stairs is clearly indicated by use of slip-resistant nosing covers of contrasting colour and texture to the stairs. All stairs have a handrail on both sides which extend beyond the top and bottom of each flight. Level changes are clearly lit. The pitch of stairs is consistent and nosings are clearly identifiable. From the lower ground floor up to the fifth floor, there are 96 steps total, with landings provided between each of the 12 flights of 8-step stairs that are large enough to permit passing and turning manoeuvres.

The building has a central lift that traverses all floors. The lift's location is clearly defined by visual and tactile information, controls at all floors are visible, identifiable and reachable from sitting and standing levels, and there is adequate unobstructed space at each floor lift entry for wheelchair manoeuvre. The lift door opens widely enough to permit wheelchair access and door operation allows slow entry and exit. The lift car has appropriate support rails, and its internal dimensions allow sufficient space for a wheelchair user and carer, though snug. Controls within the lift car, including emergency call button, are within reach of all users and with visual and tactile information. There is no audible floor indication. This lift is not an evacuation lift and should not be used in case of an emergency evacuation. The lift is regularly maintained, and its functional operation is routinely checked.

DOORS

Doors serve both a functional and safety purpose and are fire rated. There is clear signage on the doors that identify them as such. Doors are fitted with closures. Doors are clearly visible when shut. There are window panels in the doors, and internal windows to some rooms, this enables people standing or sitting to be seen from either side of the door. The clear opening width of the doors permits wheelchair access. Door handles can be reached from both a sitting and standing position and they can be easily grasped. Door mechanisms are fitted with slow action closers, and these mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is WC provision for people with disabilities, and all lavatory areas have slip resistant floors. Most fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre and raise and lower

themselves in standard cubicles. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. Accessible WCs are located on the lower ground floor and fourth floor. There is sufficient space at entry to these compartments for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. All fittings are easily reached, and lighting is automatically activated by motion-sensor upon entry. The accessible WC compartments are fitted with an alarm system, and their layouts offer a left-handed approach; handwashing facilities are within reach of someone seated on the WC and there are suitable grabrails fitted to aid use of the WC. Taps in all lavatories are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

There is currently an audible and visible fire alarm system in place. Final exit routes are accessible to all, including wheelchair users as are the entry routes. Evacuation from upper levels using an evacuation lift/platform lift with a protected power supply is not possible. People with disabilities can evacuate the building independently, except for wheelchair users evacuating from the first and second floors – Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans are created for people with disabilities that may require assistance and are actioned by a WaterBear fire marshal or other trained staff member during an evacuation. There is an evacuation plan in place for all people. One or more WaterBear staff members trained as fire marshals will always be on duty to manage any evacuation. Evacuation plans are checked regularly, and fire drills are carried out in line with regulations. Evacuation routes are checked regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All warning devices and detectors are checked regularly.

AUDIO AIDS

At this present time there is no induction loop installed at WaterBear HQ. However, due to the smaller classroom size, those with hearing aids would be able to comfortably listen and take part in the lectures and seminars on-site without any interference, background noise or acoustical distortion.

VISUAL AIDS

Currently there are no specific additional measures in place to support any patrons with visual impairment at WaterBear HQ. All spaces are however well-lit with minimal trip hazards, and all direction signs are written clearly. Guide dogs are welcome in the building.

WATERBEAR VENUE

169-170 Kings Road Arches, Brighton, BN1 1NB

The WaterBear Venue is one of our two Brighton grassroots venues, situated within Kings Road Arches overlooking Brighton's central seafront area, approximately 700 yards from WaterBear HQ (8-minute walk). The location provides excellent public transport links to the rest of the city and beyond from Kings Road, the main road overhead.



From live gigs to student nights and club nights, the Venue is predominantly a space for extra-curricular student activities and Live Performance Workshops (LPWs). Included at the Venue is a professional Funktion One PA system, fully licensed bar and state-of-the-art music performance equipment. The WaterBear Venue is partially accessible to wheelchair users.

APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The Venue is within convenient distance of multiple public highways, with access to city-wide and county-wide public transport. WaterBear does not have its own parking facilities, but there are two large public car parks within 350 yards of the WaterBear Venue. The Venue is approached via the main seafront promenade adjacent to Kings Road, with access down to the front of the Venue from street level facilitated by a slope. Brighton Council has informed us that due to the gradient of the slope, it is not fully DDA compliant; however, the gradient is not so great as to pose significant risk to wheelchair users. The route is free of kerbs, aside from 'drop kerbs' at either end of pedestrian crossings, including those leading onto the promenade. The surface is smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for wheelchair access. The approach is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins and any outward opening windows or doors and there are no overhanging projections. The area is well lit. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and any other debris; there are no steps.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

There are two adjacent sets of double doors that facilitate entrance to the WaterBear Venue. The left-hand set of doors function as our main entrance; they have a graduated threshold, and the clear

opening is wide enough to permit wheelchair access. The right-hand set of doors are often used to allow access to a designated outdoor smoking area during events; this threshold is not level and requires a step up followed by a steeper drop to enter the Venue, though the clear opening is wide enough to permit wheelchair access if required. Both sets of doors are clearly distinguishable from the façade, and the central glass panels allow visibility through the door from both sides at standing and seated levels. There is adequate wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the main doors to clear door swing and door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and is easily grasped and operated. There is an entry system fitted to the doors which utilises mobile phones or key fobs, the scan pad for this system is accessible from both standing and seated positions. There is a powered push button to unlock the door upon exit. The door and reception area are well lit, and signage is clear and well positioned. Floor surfaces are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. The reception area is suitable for approach and use by people in standing and seated positions.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

From the reception area, the Venue splits into two arches: in the left arch is the bar area, and in the right arch is the performance area. Corridors are wide enough for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and for other people to pass. All corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lighting avoids glare and silhouetting where possible, though is occasionally unavoidable due to the nature of some of the events held here. Floor surfaces are mostly hard vinyl, allowing ease of movement for wheelchair users and avoiding light reflection and sound reverberation. Direction or information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels, are in upper and lower case and are large enough type to be read by those with impaired vision – the maintenance of these items is checked regularly. There is sufficient circulation space for wheelchair users in most areas. Seating arrangements and spaces are suitable for use by people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

There are no lifts, stairlifts or ramps available in this building. Both arches are accessed by a set of 6 descending steps from the reception area. Lavatories are accessible only by a set of 4 ascending steps from the bar area or 6 ascending steps and 1 descending step from the performance area.

The stage is elevated by a single step. The location of any steps or stairs is clearly indicated by use of clearly identifiable slip-resistant nosing covers of contrasting colour and texture to the stair/step, including hazard chevron patterns. All stairwells are well lit, and pitch of steps/stairs is consistent.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional and safety purpose and are fire rated. They are readily distinguished and clearly visible when shut. The clear opening width of all doors – except lavatory doors – can facilitate wheelchair access, though the space on the opening side of some doors is insufficient to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. All door furniture/handles are at a height for standing or seated use, are clearly distinguished and most are easily operated/grasped. Most doors have closer mechanisms that provide slow-action closure. Door mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is no specific WC provision for people with disabilities, but lavatory areas have slip-resistant flooring that is easy to distinguish by colour contrast from walls. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. No provision is made for wheelchair users as all lavatories are only accessible by stairs. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. All fittings are easily reached, though not all from a seated position. There are no lavatories with emergency call systems. Taps are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip. There are no grabrails fitted in any lavatory areas.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

There is currently an audible and visible fire system in place. Final exit routes are accessible to all, except wheelchair users, as are the entry routes. People with disabilities may not be able to evacuate from the building independently, depending on the nature of their disability; Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans are created and individually tailored for people with disabilities that may require assistance in the event of an evacuation, and are actioned by a WaterBear fire marshal or other trained staff member accordingly during an evacuation. There is an evacuation plan in place for all people. One or more WaterBear staff members trained as fire marshals will always be duty to manage any evacuation. Evacuation plans are checked regularly, and fire drills are carried out in

line with regulations. Evacuation routes are checked regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All warning devices and detectors are checked regularly.

AUDIO AIDS

At this present time there is no induction loop installed at the WaterBear Venue. Due to the nature and type of activity mostly taking place at the facility, an installation of this kind is not envisioned.

VISUAL AIDS

Currently there are no specific additional measures in place to support any patrons with visual impairment at the WaterBear Venue. The lighting in the Venue is commensurate with the type of activity it houses and some measures, such as floor markings to highlight trip hazards (stairs, staging, etc.) and clear signage have been installed. Guide dogs are welcome in the building.

WATERBEAR MUSICBAR

14-17 Manchester Street, Brighton, BN2 1TF

WaterBear MusicBar is one of our two Brighton grassroots venues, located 0.6 miles from WaterBear HQ (13-minute walk) in the bustling Kemptown area. Just a short distance from Brighton Palace Pier on the seafront, the location also offers excellent public transport links to the rest of the city and beyond.

From live gigs to student nights and club nights, the WaterBear MusicBar is predominantly a space for extra-curricular student activities and Live Performance Workshops (LPWs). Included at the MusicBar is a professional PA system, extensive backline of music performance equipment and a fully licensed bar. This building is partially accessible to wheelchair users.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of multiple public highways and main roads, with access to city-wide and county-wide public transport. WaterBear MusicBar does not have its own parking facilities, but there are five public car parks within 700 yards of the building and limited paid street

parking on neighbouring roads. The route to the building does have small kerbs, but there are 'drop kerbs' at regular intervals with surfaces well maintained, generally smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for wheelchair access. The approach is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins and any outward opening windows or doors and there are no overhanging projections. The area is well lit. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and any other debris; there are no steps except for the building's entrance.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The entrance to WaterBear MusicBar is accessed via 3 ascending stone steps and through a set of double doors into a foyer/reception area. The main entrance double doors are clearly distinguishable from the façade, and the central glass panels allow visibility through the door from both sides at standing and seated levels. With both doors open, the clear door opening permits passage of a wheelchair, and there is adequate wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the main doors to clear door swing. Door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and is easily grasped and operated. The doors and reception area are well lit, and signage is clear and well positioned. The reception area is large enough for wheelchair manoeuvres. Floor surfaces are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. The reception area is suitable for approach and use by people in standing and seated positions.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Most corridors are wide enough for a wheelchair user to manoeuvre and for other people to pass. All corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lighting avoids glare and silhouetting where possible, though is occasionally unavoidable due to the nature of some of the events held here. Floor surfaces are mostly hard vinyl, allowing ease of movement for wheelchair users and avoiding light reflection and sound reverberation. Direction or information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels. There is sufficient circulation space for wheelchair users in most areas. Seating arrangements and spaces are suitable for use by people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

There are no lifts or stairlifts available in this building. Ramps can only be provided to assist access to the ground floor bar area from the reception area, which involves 2 descending steps. Access to the basement from the ground floor bar area is via a descending flight of 13 steps, a landing of moderate size, then a further 4 descending steps. In the basement, the stage is elevated by a single step and there are multiple descending and ascending steps required to access the green room areas and the rear basement fire exit route – the fire exit doors for this route themselves are on the ground floor and accessed via a further ascending flight of 19 steps with a small landing midway. All lavatories are located on the first floor, and only accessible via an ascending flight of 13 stairs with a small landing in the middle and a turn. The location of any steps or stairs is clearly indicated by use of clearly identifiable slip-resistant nosing covers of contrasting colour and texture to the stair/step, including hazard chevron patterns. All stairwells are well lit, and pitch of steps/stairs is consistent. Some landings are large enough to permit passing and turning manoeuvres.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional and safety purpose and are fire rated. They are readily distinguished and clearly visible when shut. Some doors have a safety glass window which allows visibility from both sides when standing only. The clear opening width of most doors can facilitate wheelchair access, though the space on the opening side of some doors is insufficient to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. All door furniture/handles are at a height for standing use, are clearly distinguished and most are easily operated/grasped. Most doors have closer mechanisms that provide slow-action closure. Door mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is no specific WC provision for people with disabilities, but lavatory areas have slip-resistant flooring that is easy to distinguish by colour contrast from walls. All fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. No provision is made for wheelchair users as all lavatories are only accessible by stairs. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. All fittings are easily reached, though not all from a seated position. There are no lavatories with emergency call systems. Most taps are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip. There are no grabrails fitted in any lavatory areas.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

There is currently an audible and visible fire system in place. Final exit routes are accessible to all except wheelchair users, as are the entry routes. Evacuation from upper levels using an evacuation lift/platform lift with a protected power supply is not possible. People with disabilities may not be able to evacuate from the building independently, depending on the nature of their disability; Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans are created and individually tailored for people with disabilities that may require assistance in the event of an evacuation, and are actioned by a WaterBear fire marshal or other trained staff member accordingly during an evacuation. There is an evacuation plan in place for all people. One or more WaterBear staff members trained as fire marshals will always be duty to manage any evacuation. Evacuation plans are checked regularly, and fire drills are carried out in line with regulations. Evacuation routes are checked regularly for freedom from combustible materials, obstacles and locked doors. All warning devices and detectors are checked regularly.

AUDIO AIDS

At this present time there is no induction loop installed at the WaterBear MusicBar. Due to the nature and type of activity mostly taking place at the facility, an installation of this kind is not envisioned.

VISUAL AIDS

Currently there are no specific additional measures in place to support any patrons with visual impairment at the WaterBear MusicBar. The lighting in the building is commensurate with the type of activity it houses and some measures, such as floor markings to highlight trip hazards (stairs, staging, etc.) and clear signage have been installed. Guide dogs are welcome in the building.

External Spaces used by WaterBear for Teaching/Rehearsals/Studio Time

BRIGHTON ELECTRIC

**Tramway House, 43-45 Coombe Terrace,
Lewes Road, Brighton, BN2 4AD**
<https://brightonelectric.co.uk/>

Brighton Electric is a large music studio complex with 17 practice rooms and 2 high end recording studios. There are also several mixing studios, a mastering suite, storage facilities, a shop and a bar/cafe. Brighton Electric lies approximately 1.4 miles from WaterBear HQ (32-minute walk). There are excellent public transport links to and from Brighton Electric, with Lewes Road being one of the 2 main north-south routes carrying traffic to and from the city.



WaterBear have partnered with Brighton Electric to house our pre-production delivery for the academic year 25-26. The ground floor of the facility is wheelchair accessible, housing recording studios, rehearsal studios, a live performance space, the reception area/bar and lavatories.

APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

The building is within convenient distance of a public highway and main road, with access to city-wide and county-wide public transport. Brighton Electric does not have its own parking facilities. The route to the building does have small kerbs, but there are 'drop kerbs' at regular intervals with surfaces generally well maintained, smooth and slip resistant, though some pavements are slightly uneven. The route is wide enough for wheelchair access. The approach is free from hazards such as bollards, litter bins and any outward opening windows or doors and there are no overhanging projections. The area is well lit. The route to the building is kept free of snow, ice and any other debris; there are no steps except for the building's entrance.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

Brighton Electric's main entrance comprises 2 ascending stone steps leading up to a set of double doors – a moveable ramp is available to aid access. These doors are clearly distinguishable from the façade and when both leaves are open, the clear door opening permits passage of a wheelchair. There is adequate wheelchair manoeuvre space beside the main door to clear door swing, and door furniture can be used at both standing and seated height and is easily grasped and operated. The doors and reception area are well lit, and signage is clear and well positioned. The reception area is large enough for wheelchair manoeuvres. Floor surfaces are firm for wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion. The reception area is suitable for approach and use by people in standing and seated positions.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Most corridors are wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair user. All corridors are free from obstruction to wheelchair users and from hazards to people with impaired vision. Lighting avoids glare and silhouetting where possible. Floor surfaces allow ease of movement for wheelchair users and avoid light reflection and sound reverberation. Direction or information signs are visible from both sitting and standing eye levels. There is sufficient circulation space for wheelchair users in most ground floor areas. Seating arrangements and spaces are suitable for use by people with visual disabilities.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

There are no lifts, stairlifts or ramps available in this building, apart from the moveable ramp that can facilitate access through the main entrance. The first-floor rehearsal rooms are not wheelchair accessible as they can only be accessed by a long ascending flight of stairs with a landing midway and a right-hand turn. This staircase has a handrail on the right-hand side. Some of the rehearsal rooms also have an ascending step at their entrance from the corridor. Any level change is well-lit, and the pitch of stairs/steps is generally consistent.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional and safety purpose and are fire rated. They are readily distinguished and clearly visible when shut. Some doors have a safety glass window which allows visibility from both sides when standing only. The clear opening width of most doors can facilitate wheelchair access,

though the space on the opening side of some doors is insufficient to allow the door handle to be grasped and the door swung past a wheelchair footplate. All door furniture/handles are at a height for standing or sitting use, are clearly distinguished and most are easily operated/grasped. Some doors have closer mechanisms that provide slow-action closure. Door mechanisms are checked regularly.

LAVATORIES

There is WC provision for people with disabilities, and all lavatory areas have slip resistant floors. Most fittings are readily distinguishable from their backgrounds and door fittings and locks are easily gripped and operated. Ambulant disabled people can manoeuvre and raise and lower themselves in standard cubicles. The location of lavatories is clearly signed. Provision is made for wheelchair users, and the approach is free of steps and obstructions. There is sufficient space at entry to accessible WC compartments for wheelchair manoeuvre and door opening. All fittings are easily reached. The accessible WC compartment is fitted with an alarm system, and the layout offers a left-handed approach; handwashing facilities are within reach of someone seated on the WC and there are suitable grabrails fitted to aid use of the WC. Taps in all lavatories are appropriate for use by someone with limited dexterity or grip.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

All fire procedures, systems and checks are in place and carried out in line with regulations by Brighton Electric.

AUDIO AIDS

At this present time there is no induction loop at Brighton Electric.

VISUAL AIDS

There is currently nothing specifically in place to aid those with visual impairments at Brighton Electric. However, there is good lighting throughout the building, with clear signage of emergency exits and toilets. Guide dogs are also welcome.

ALPHABET

11 Dyke Road, Brighton, BN1 3FE

<https://www.alphabetbrighton.com/>

Alphabet is a live music venue with a HIFI bar downstairs – Alphabet’s focus is sound quality and intimate experience. Located on Dyke Road near Churchill Square, Alphabet is only 350 yards from WaterBear HQ (4-minute walk) and is easily accessible by public transport.

WaterBear has partnered with Alphabet for the academic year 26-27 to deliver Live Performance Workshop (LPW) lessons. This venue is partially wheelchair accessible.



APPROACH AND CAR PARKING

Alphabet is within convenient distance of multiple public highways and main roads, and its location offers excellent city-wide and county-wide public transport links. Whilst Alphabet doesn’t have its own parking facilities, there are two large public car parks within 350 yards of the building. The route to the building does have small kerbs, but there are ‘drop kerbs’ at regular intervals with surfaces well maintained, smooth and slip resistant. The route is wide enough for a wheelchair, and is free of such hazards as bollards, litter bins, outward opening windows and doors or overhanging projections. The area is well-lit and kept free of snow, ice and any other debris; there are no steps except for the building’s entrance. Alphabet is situated on Dyke Road, which has a moderate incline if approaching from Churchill Square.

ENTRANCES, INCLUDING RECEPTION

The main door is clearly distinguishable from the façade and is accessed via 3 stone steps – no ramp is provided to assist access. The clear door opening permits passage of a wheelchair, and the entrance foyer and hi-fi bar area are wheelchair accessible. Floor surfaces are firm for

wheelchair manoeuvre and of a quality that is sympathetic to acoustics. Floor surfaces avoid presenting trip hazards and causing visual confusion.

HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT AND ASSEMBLY

Corridors on the ground floor are generally wide enough for wheelchair users and are free from obstruction and hazards. Floor surfaces allow ease of movement for wheelchair users. There is sufficient circulation space for wheelchair users in the hi-fi bar area. Lighting throughout the building is quite dim.

VERTICAL MOVEMENT AND INTERNAL LEVEL CHANGE

There are no lifts, stairlifts or ramps available in this building. The venue area on the first floor can only be accessed via a flight of 18 steps and is therefore not wheelchair accessible.

DOORS

Doors serve a functional and safety purpose and are fire rated. They are readily distinguished and clearly visible when shut. The clear opening width of most doors can facilitate wheelchair access. All door furniture/handles are at a height for standing use, are clearly distinguished and most are easily operated/grasped.

LAVATORIES

No WC provision is made for people with disabilities.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

All fire procedures, systems and checks are in place and carried out in line with regulations by Alphabet.

AUDIO AIDS

At this present time there is no hearing loop installed at the venue.

VISUAL AIDS

There are currently no visual aids on site at Alphabet.