



Access to College

Case Study

Michael was involved in a road traffic accident a few years ago and as a result suffered very serious spinal injuries. The medical diagnosis was paraplegia and Michael is now a wheelchair user.

In his Leaving Certificate exam Michael attained sufficient points to pursue an engineering course in his local third level college. After he submitted his enrolment form the college informed Michael that they do not have the facilities to accommodate a wheelchair user and therefore will not be in a position to offer him a place on their course.

After reading the above story, consider the following statements and their implications:

- a) Michael is unable to attend college because he is disabled and is confined to a wheelchair.
- b) As a wheelchair user Michael is disabled by the fact that the college he wishes to attend does not have wheelchair access.