



Easy Read



January 2009

Disability Discrimination Act 2005

A law to help disabled people



Office for Disability Issues

HM Government

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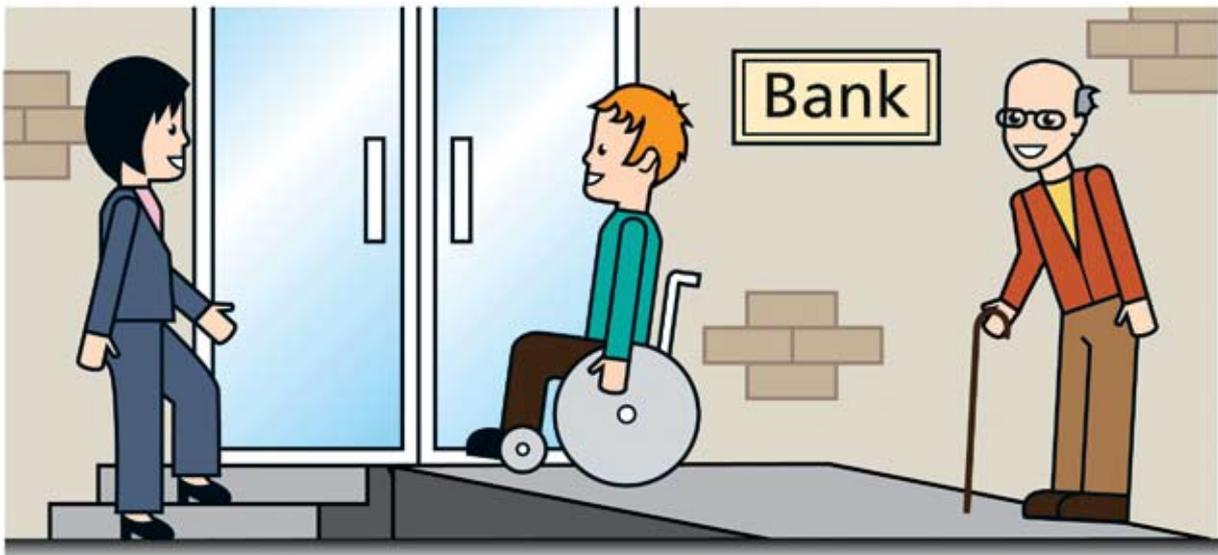
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More laws to help disabled people

The Government wants to make sure that disabled people are treated fairly in a lot more ways.

There are already laws to make sure disabled people are treated fairly at work or in places where they learn (like colleges).

There are also laws to make sure they are treated fairly in other places (like shops and banks).



And there are laws to make sure they are treated fairly when they go somewhere to eat or drink (like restaurants or pubs).

But the Government thought that the laws could be made better and it asked lots of people for their views. After the Government had listened to what everyone had to say, it wrote down its own ideas for the new laws.

These ideas were discussed in Parliament, and some changes were made to improve the new laws. Parliament agreed what the new laws should do. These laws are called the "Disability Discrimination Act 2005". The laws started at different times.

Who has to treat disabled people fairly because of the law?

A lot of people need to think about what they will have to do because of the laws. These include people who:

- run public transport services, such as buses and trains

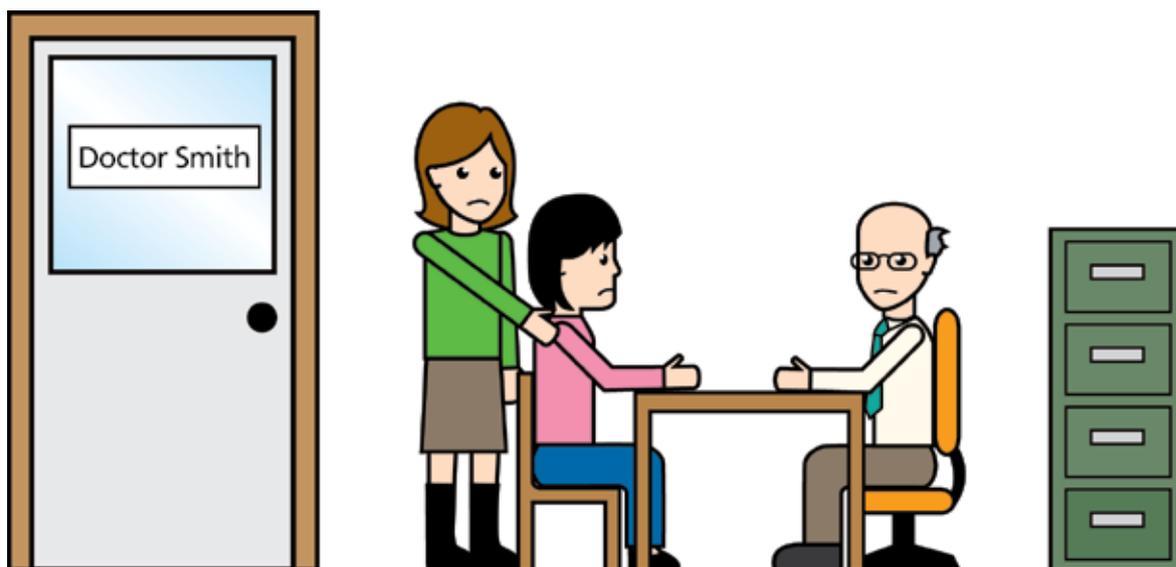


- are in public bodies, such as local councils, schools and hospitals
- rent houses or flats to disabled people
- run clubs where there are 25 or more members
- are in charge of qualifications like GCSEs and A-Levels.

Which laws started in December 2005?

The Government made new laws start in December 2005 so that:

- A lot more people with HIV, multiple sclerosis and cancer now find it easier to get fair treatment from the moment that they know they are ill.



- People with mental illnesses now find it easier to show they are disabled and be treated fairly.
- It will be easier in future to change the law which says who counts as a disabled person if the law is not helping them.
- Local councils have to make sure that local councillors who are disabled are treated fairly.

DWP Disability Discrimination Act

- Disabled people must be treated fairly when they want to be a member of a club which is not open to the public (like a golf club where you have to be chosen to be a member).



- Disabled people can ask questions on a special form if think they have not been treated fairly in somewhere like a shop or a restaurant.
- People who print job adverts, such as adverts you might see in newspapers, now have to be careful that the adverts treat disabled people fairly.

Which laws started in December 2006?

Some of the laws made bigger changes for some people.

These people needed more time to make sure they could understand what they needed to do. Also, the Government wanted to give them some help.

So the Government asked an organisation which helped disabled people, called the Disability Rights Commission, to write books to help people to understand the laws.

The Disability Rights Commission is now closed, but disabled people who want to know more about how the law already helps them can get advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.



These books are called “Codes of Practice”.

The laws which started in December 2006 mean that:

- Public bodies, like hospitals or local councils, now have to do a lot more to make sure that they don't break the laws that protect disabled people, and give disabled people fair chances.

DWP Disability Discrimination Act

- Landlords must look at how they rent property, so that disabled people are treated more fairly. For example, a landlord might need to read out a letter he writes to a disabled person about their rent.
- If a tenant wants to make a change to their flat or house to help a disabled person, like putting handrails in a bathroom, the landlord should not refuse unless he has a good reason.
- People who run public transport now have to do more to make sure that disabled people can use their buses, coaches, taxis and trains. People who run vehicle hire, breakdown and leisure and tourism transport services also have to do more.

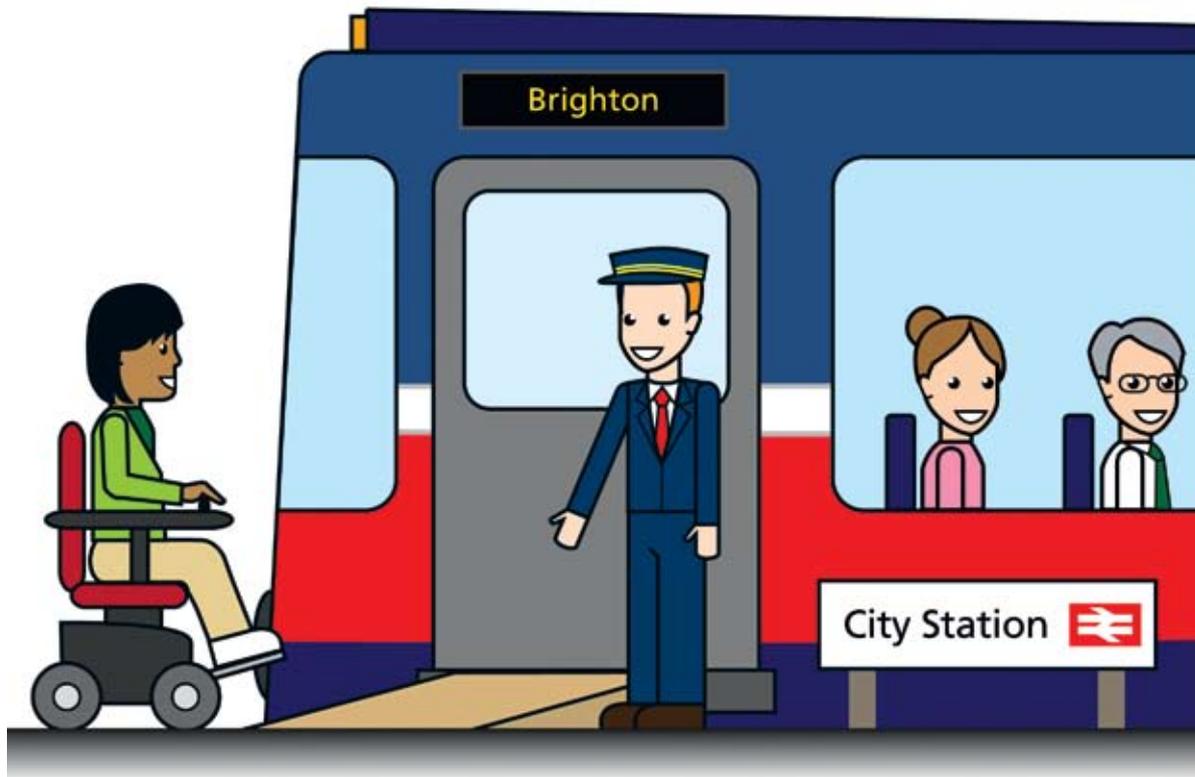


- Disabled people studying for qualifications like GCSEs now have to be treated fairly. This might mean letting them have more time if they take an exam.
- Clubs with 25 members or more now have to make changes to help disabled people. This might mean putting in a ramp so that people in wheelchairs can get into their club.

What else does the Act say about transport?

People who run new trains must make sure that disabled people can use them.

The Government changed the law so that improvements can be made to older trains as well.



The law says that all trains must be accessible by 1 January 2020.

The Government also changed the law to make sure that disabled people from other countries who have special parking permits for their cars will find it easier to park in this country.

Useful addresses

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Disabled people who want to know more about how the law already helps them can get advice from the Equality and Human Rights Commission:

- 0845 604 6610 (England)
- 0845 604 5510 (Scotland)
- 0845 604 8810 (Wales)
- www.equalityhumanrights.com

Office for Disability Issues

If you would like to know more about how the laws on Disability Discrimination work, please contact:

Office for Disability Issues
6th Floor, The Adelphi
1-11 John Adam Street
London WC2N 6HT

- Telephone 020 7962 8799
- Textphone 020 7712 2032
- Email office-for-disability-issues@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



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