



Office for
Disability
Issues



Department
for Work &
Pensions

The rights of disabled people in Great Britain and Northern Ireland



A report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by (the United Kingdom) Great Britain and Northern Ireland



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Introduction



In 2017 the **United Nations (UN) Committee** looked at the **rights** of disabled people in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



The Committee asked the UK Government some questions and made some recommendations.



This easy read document explains the questions from the **UN Committee** and the answers given by the UK Government.



The **United Nations (UN)** is an organisation where all the countries in the world work together.



The **UN Committee** is a group of people at the United Nations that checks what governments are doing to protect the rights of disabled people in their countries.



Rights are the things that every person should have. Most countries have laws that make sure that people get their rights.

Helping disabled people to live independently



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure we are helping disabled people **live independently** and be a part of their local community.



Living independently: This means people having choice and control over the care and support services they need to live the way they want to.



Community is the people and places close to where you live.



The Government said:

1. We want:



- Disabled people to **live independently**. This could be in their own home



- People to be a part of their local **community**



2. Local councils must think about each person's choices, beliefs and feelings when providing care



3. Local councils may pay for the services a disabled person needs if they can't pay for them themselves



4. Local councils may help disabled people with:

- Good advice



- A choice of homes to live in



- Paying for changes to the house so a disabled person can live at home



5. The Government wants to support disabled people to make their own decisions and choices



6. In Wales the Government is improving the rules for helping disabled people to **live independently**



7. In Scotland the Government wants:

- To improve the quality of care that disabled people get



- Have more houses that meet the needs of disabled people



9. In Northern Ireland disabled people are being helped to get the right care and support



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to:

- Think about how its services affect disabled people
- Talk to disabled people about their services to make sure that they can live independently.



The Government said:

- We want to involve disabled people in all decisions that affect them



- We are regularly looking at the laws and services that affect disabled people



The UN Committee asked the UK Government to make sure that local councils have enough money to help disabled people to **live independently**.



The Government said:

1. We are spending a lot of money on social care services



2. We are making sure that there will be enough money for **supported housing** for disabled people



3. In England, local councils can make changes in older people and disabled peoples' homes to make them easier and safer to live-in



Supported housing: where a disabled person gets the care and support they need in their own home.



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to increase the number of disabled people that live independently in their local community.



The Government is increasing the number of people that live independently in their local community by making sure people with learning disabilities and mental health conditions get the right support locally.



They are also making sure local councils have enough money to support people who need to make changes to their houses so they can live independent lives at home.



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to give enough support and money to support services for disabled people, including those that live in cities or the countryside.



The Government thinks that is important that disabled people can always access the right care, no matter what their disability is or where they live.

Work and employment



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure that disabled people:

- Have the chance to go to work and do the jobs they want to do



- Are paid the same as anyone else doing the same job



The Government said:

1. There are 3.5 million disabled people in work in the UK.



Over the last 4 years nearly 600,000 more disabled people are now in work





2. The Government is:

- Putting more disability employment advisers in Jobcentres



- Spending more money on the **Access to Work** programme so that more disabled people can use it



Access to Work helps disabled people that need extra things to be able to work, such as specialist computer programmes or a personal assistant.

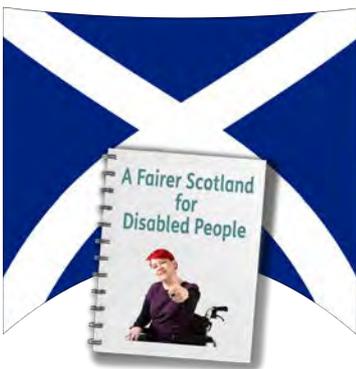


3. In Wales the Government is helping:

- Disabled people get more support to get into work



- Employers to recruit more disabled people



4. In Scotland the Government has a plan called 'A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People'.

This plan will help get more disabled people into work



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure that disabled people are treated fairly at work.



The Government said:

1. The UK law says that employers must treat all people fairly



2. People can complain if they think that an employer is not treating them fairly or not making the changes they need to do the job



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure it is fair in the way it decides if someone can get a benefit when their health affects their work.

The Government said:



1. We think the way we decide if someone can get a benefit is fair. But we are talking to disabled people about how we could make this better



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to:

- Think again about how it employs disabled people in the Armed Forces



- Make sure that everyone has the chance to work by the year 2030

A good standard of living



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure disabled people have enough money to pay for the things they need, including things they need because of their disability.

The Government said:

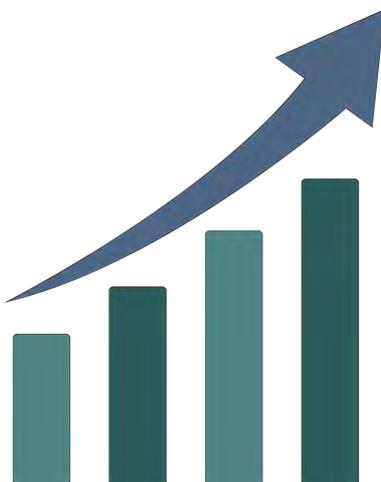
We give money to disabled people to help to pay for things they need.

People often call this money ‘benefits’.



These benefits include:

- Universal Credit
- Personal Independence Payment
- Employment and Support Allowance



Next year the the Government will spend around £54 billion on benefits for disabled people and people with long term health conditions.

This is the highest amount we have ever spent.



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure that it is fair to disabled people when it makes important decisions.

The Government said:

- When we make important decisions, we always check that we don't unfairly affect different groups of people. One of these groups are disabled people



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to change the rules for getting benefits, in particular Personal Independence Payment.

The Government said:

- We regularly look at how we can change benefits to make them better.
- An important change has been made to the rules of **Personal Independence Payment** that means some people will get more money.





The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure local councils have enough money to provide services to disabled people in the places that they live.



The Government said:

- We regularly look at how much money councils in England get to provide services to people in the place that they live.
- Reviews are also done in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to think about the things it makes people do when they are on benefits.

The Government said:

- We think it is important that:
 - People who can work should do everything that they can to get a job





- People that can work in the future do things to help them prepare for work



- If a person does not do what they have agreed to do, then the amount of money that they get could go down.

This is called a **sanction**.



The Government does not want people to get less money. Changes are being made to help people to understand what they must do.



- If a person gets a **sanction** then they can ask for hardship payments to help pay for essential things that they need.

What we did after the previous report



The **UN Committee** previously looked into the rights of all disabled people in the UK in 2016.

Here are some of their recommendations and the comments from the UK Government.



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to think about the rights of disabled people when they made plans about where people live and what benefits they get.



The Government said:

- People have more choice and control over their personal care if they have a personal health budget
- People get more money in their Employment and Support Allowance if their health is worse than others





The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure that disabled people get money to pay for the things they need because of their disability.

The Government said:



- The Personal Independence Payment helps people with the extra costs of having a disability, such as help to get about



- There is also a scheme called Motability that helps people with the costs of travelling



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure that it is fair to disabled people when it makes important decisions.

The Government said:



- When we make important decisions, we always check that we don't unfairly affect different groups of people. One of these groups are disabled people



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to make sure that information from the Government can be read and understood by disabled people.



The Government said:

- The law says that the Government should make sure that information is available in a way that people can understand
- In Scotland British Sign Language is part of the law



The **UN Committee** asked the UK Government to:

- Make sure that support is available to help disabled people to use the law
- Talk to disabled people about plans for new services
- Make sure that disabled people aren't hurt or made fun of by other people



More things we are doing to make sure that disabled people are being treated fairly



Equality

We have strong laws that set out the rules to make sure disabled people are treated equally to people who don't have a disability.



The Government thinks that it is important to talk to disabled people to hear what they say about the services they use.

Transport



In England the Government is working to make transport easier to use.



The Government is:

- Giving better training to transport staff about disability
- Giving better travel information about assistance



Housing



We want to give disabled and older people a better choice of homes they can live in.



We also want to make sure older and disabled people receive the right care and support to live at home.



Health

We want to make sure that everyone has access to the health care that they need.



We are making sure that people with poor mental health, autism or a learning disability can get medical help in the same way as everyone else.

Employment



The Government thinks that it is important that disabled people have the same chance to work as people that are not disabled.



We are working to get more disabled people, including people with a learning disability to have better access to apprenticeships. These are jobs that also provide training.

Being included in society



We are working to get more disabled people involved in watching, volunteering and taking part in sports.

Helping disabled people in other countries



As well as making things better for disabled people in the UK the Government wants to help disabled people in other countries.



The Government has organised meetings with people from different countries to talk about what more can be done.

For more information



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