



Office for
Disability
Issues

The Government's report to the United Nations about the rights of disabled people 2019



Contents

Page



Introduction

3



What we have done since the last report

5



Other work

20



For more information

30

Introduction



The **United Nations (UN) Committee** wrote a report in 2017 about the **rights** of disabled people in the UK.



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 people get their rights.



The report said the UK Government should improve disability rights.



The United Nations wants the UK Government to write a report every year to say how it is improving disability rights.



This easy read document explains the questions from the UN Committee and the answers given by the UK Government in 2019.

What we have done since the last report



- 1. The UN Committee asked the UK to make sure that it doesn't unfairly affect disabled people when it makes important decisions.**

The UK Government said:



- When we make important decisions that affect people we check to see if these decisions are unfair to different groups of people.



- One of these groups is disabled people.



2. **The UN Committee asked the UK to make sure that changes to benefits help disabled people to live well.**



The UK Government said:

- We have laws that make sure disabled people get their rights.



- We check to see if changes to benefits could affect disabled people.



- The Government gives money to disabled people who need it.
People often call this money 'benefits'.



These benefits include:

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



- The amount of money people get depends on their health.

Some people get more money if their health becomes worse.



- We have been listening to disabled people and making changes to the way we give people benefits.



- We have been making it easier for people to apply for benefits and get what they need.



- Scotland will set up their own way of giving people benefits to support disabled people in 2020.



- Wales and Northern Ireland also provide extra support for disabled people who need it.



- Northern Ireland provides extra money to help disabled people who are changing from one benefit to another.

3. The UN Committee asked the UK to protect the rights and needs of disabled people when it makes new plans for:



- Where and how disabled people live
- What benefits disabled people get

The Government said:

- We have laws to protect disabled people's rights and needs.

We check to see if decisions made by Government could affect disabled people.



- Jobcentre Plus works to support disabled people to get into and stay in work.



- More disabled people are using **Access to Work**.



Access to Work helps disabled people that need extra help to be able to work.



- We want to make it as easy as possible for everyone to stay in work.

We help bosses to support their disabled workers.



- The Government want more people to have choice and control over their care.

People have more choice and control over their care if they have a **personal health budget**.



A **personal health budget** is money some people get from the NHS to pay for their own health and support needs.



- The Government gives money to local councils to help people to make changes to their homes so they can live independently.



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

The Government said:

- This year the Government will spend over £55 billion on benefits for disabled people and people with long term health conditions.

This is the most we have ever spent.

- **Motability** helps people with the costs of travelling.



Motability is a scheme where some disabled people can swap some of their benefit to get a car, scooter or powered wheelchair.



- Local councils receive money from Government to support disabled people and help keep them well.



- Northern Ireland has a separate way of giving benefits to disabled people.



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

The Government said:



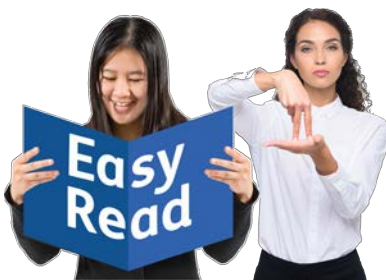
- The law says that the Government and other organisations must not make things harder for disabled people.



This includes making sure that there is information that disabled people can understand.



- A new law is coming in to make Government websites easier for disabled people.



- Disability experts are helping to make accessible versions of Government information.

This includes Easy Read and British Sign Language.



- Scotland has a law which says that all Ministers must communicate in a way that everyone can understand.



6. **The UN Committee asked the UK to make sure that disabled people can get support to use the law.**



Disabled people should get help to appeal if they don't agree with a decision about their benefits.

The Government said:



- People can get support to use the law if they think they have been treated unfairly.

They can ask for help to pay for this support through a service called Legal Aid.



- In Scotland, if you don't agree with a decision about your benefits, you will get the same benefits while you appeal.



- In Wales, extra support is given to people who have difficulty with their money and getting the right support.

Lots of disabled people have been supported through this.



7. The UN Committee wants the UK Government to ask disabled people what they think about any new services and **policies**.



Policies are rules and guidelines about how something should be done.



The Government said:

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



- The Government regularly talks to disabled people when they are making new policies or services.



This is so disabled people can tell the Government how:

- They feel
- New services can be made to be helpful for disabled people



- A new disability unit is being set up to help different parts of the Government to work together better to help disabled people.



- The Government is setting up ways to talk to more disabled people across England about things that affect them.



- In Scotland the Government are talking to disabled people about the new way to give people benefits.



- In Wales the Government also regularly meet with disabled people.



8. The UN Committee asked the UK to make sure that disabled people are protected from **Hate Crime** and **harassment** from other people.



Hate Crime is when somebody hurts someone because they are not like them.



Harrassment is when someone makes you feel scared.



The Government said:

- We take Hate Crime very seriously.



Nobody should be hurt or made fun of because they are disabled.



The law says that this should not happen.



- The Government has a plan to improve things.

Disabled people should feel confident in telling the police when bad things happen to them.



The people who commit the crimes against disabled people need to be punished.



- We also want to make the internet a safe place for disabled people.

Disabled people should not be bullied or made fun of by other people on the internet.



- Bullying should not happen in schools.

The Government has projects to help to support schools in tackling bullying.



- The Government are running campaigns to improve the way people think about disabled people.



9. The UN Committee asked the UK to make sure they think about different groups of disabled people when we set up new services.

This could be:



- Disabled people on a low income



- People that have more than one disability



The Government said:

- When we are starting a new service, we check to see if it will be unfair to different groups of people.



One of these groups is disabled people.



10. The UN Committee asked the UK to keep thinking about policies and services to make sure that they aren't being unfair to disabled people.

The Government said:



- A group of Government Ministers meet regularly to talk about how to work together on issues that affect disabled people.



- A new disability team is being set up to help different parts of government to work together better on disability issues.



- The Government is working to understand more about the issues that affect disabled people.



- The Government asks the **Equality and Human Rights Commission** to make sure that laws are being followed by organisations.



The **Equality and Human Rights Commission** is an organisation that helps Britain to be fairer and protect people's human rights.



- Scotland and Wales are looking at how to improve the lives of disabled people. They are looking at:
 - Improving the current law
 - Whether they need any new laws

Other work



The Government wants to make sure everyone is treated fairly and can live well.

Equality



Equality is when everyone is treated in the same fair way.



We have strong laws to make sure disabled people are treated equally to people who are not disabled.



We have a new project to help Government departments to work closer together on things that affect disabled people.



We are setting up ways to talk to more disabled people across England about things that affect them.

Employment



More disabled people have a job now than in 2017.

The Government thinks it is important disabled people have the same chance to work as people who are non-disabled.



The Government is learning about what helps disabled people into work and stay in work.



The Scottish Government is helping companies and organisations to make changes so all people are able to get a job.



More employers are signing up to the Disability Confident Scheme.

This scheme supports companies and organisations to hire more disabled people and keep more disabled people in work.



We are working to get more disabled people, including people with learning difficulties, to have better access to **apprenticeships**.



Apprenticeships are jobs that also provide training.



Education

The Government wants disabled students to have the same education as students who are non-disabled.



The Government wants to improve support provided in schools.

This includes better support for people with mental health conditions.



The Scottish Government is working to improve support and the wellbeing of children and young people in Scotland.



The Scottish Government is supporting universities to become more open and available for disabled students in Scotland.



The Welsh Government is starting a programme so all disabled children and young people can get a good education in Wales.



The Northern Ireland Government is training schools about supporting disabled children and young people in Northern Ireland.



The Northern Ireland Government provides extra money to support disabled students to access Further Education in Northern Ireland.



Transport

The Government wants to make transport easier to use.



The Government is spending money to improve rail stations and build more **Changing Places toilets**.



Changing Places toilets are accessible for people who need extra equipment and space to use the toilet safely and comfortably.



The Blue Badge scheme is growing so people with hidden disabilities can apply for a Blue Badge to help with their parking.

Health



£33.9 billion is being put into the NHS to make sure it continues to help people who are unwell.



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



Northern Ireland has bought in a new law about mental health.



Wales has a mental health plan and autism plan for people in Wales.



The Government wants more people to be able to get into NHS buildings independently.



Sport

The Government wants more disabled people to get into sport.



More money is being spent on Paralympics, local sport programmes and making it easier to get into sport venues.



Public places

The Government is making more spaces easier to get into.



Purple Tuesday celebrates the **Purple Pound** and helps businesses to meet disabled people's needs.



The UK's
accessible
shopping day

Purple Pound is the amount of money disabled people and their families in the UK have to spend.

It is worth £249 billion a year.



More money is being given to museums to meet disabled people's needs.



Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are all helping organisations to meet disabled people's needs.

Civil Service



The **Civil Service** are the Government's staff. They help make the Government's policies work in the best way possible.



The Civil Service wants more disabled people to be able to work with them.

The Civil Service will make sure it mostly works with businesses that are also supporting disabled people.



More support has been provided to disabled **veterans**.



Veterans are people who used to be in the armed forces.



The Government want more disabled people to be in **public office**.



Public Office is where you are on a Government committee. You don't get paid.

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 a plan to help disabled people in other countries to live well.



The UK had a big meeting with lots of other countries looking at the needs of disabled people around the world.



More money has gone into technology and mental health support to help disabled people around the world.

For more information



If you need more information, please contact us at:



Office for Disability Issues
Caxton House
7-12 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

Easy read by easy-read-online.co.uk