



Office for
Disability Issues

Regional Stakeholder Network Information Pack



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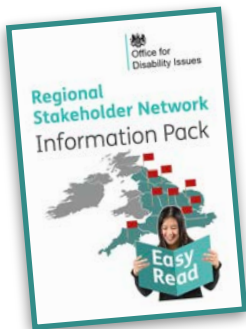
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Introduction



The Government is setting up groups of disabled people and local disability organisations to help them understand the views and issues of disabled people around England.

These groups are being called Networks and will make up the Regional Stakeholder Network.



This information pack gives more information about how the Networks will work.



The Regional Stakeholder Network is being organised by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI).

ODI is part of the Government's Department for Work and Pensions.



ODI wants disabled people and local disability organisations to join the Networks.

The Office for Disability Issues



The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) works with all parts of the Government.



The ODI helps the Minister for Disabled People do their work.



The ODI wants to make things better for disabled people.



Other parts of the Government ask the ODI for help to make things better for disabled people.

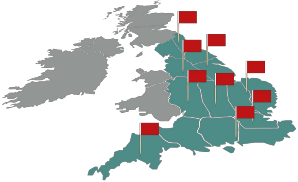
The Regional Stakeholder Network



The Regional Stakeholder Network will be made up of nine groups of disabled people and local disability organisations.



The Regional Stakeholder Network will help the Government understand the views of disabled people.



The nine Networks will come from each of the nine English regions.



There will be between 10 and 40 people in each Network.



The Regional Stakeholder Network will start in 2019, and it will be reviewed every year.

What will the Network do?



The Regional Stakeholder Network will talk about the work of the Government.



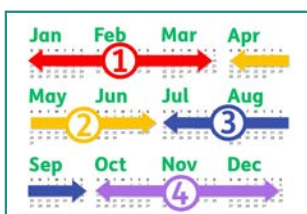
The Regional Stakeholder Network will tell the Government how its work could be better for disabled people.



This will help the Government think about disability in its work.



The ODI will ask the Network to talk about different subjects. These are called themes.



The theme will change every three months.

The Networks

Each Network will have a **Chair**. They will stay in their role for one year.



A **Chair** is a person who is in charge of a meeting.

They make sure that everything is in order.



The chairs will tell ODI what their local members think. The chair will tell ODI where the Network agrees and where it doesn't agree.



Each Network will have between 10 and 40 members. We want people with different disabilities and local disability organisations to be members.



Each Network will meet together once a year.



For the rest of the time, the Network members should contact each other using email or other accessible ways to share views about the themes.



The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work will meet with the chairs of the nine Regional Networks to hear about the views of the members of each group.



For the rest of the year, the Government will ask members questions by email or other accessible ways.



The views of people in the Networks will be given to other parts of the Government.

People's views will help different parts of the Government to make things better for disabled people.



The ODI will tell Network members how the Government is using people's views.



Chairs and members will not be paid but the Government will pay for travel expenses to Network meetings.

What will the chairs of the Regional Networks do?



The role

The chair represents disabled people in their region.

They:



- Listen to the views of disabled people in local disability organisations



- Chair the meetings of their local group



- Communicate with their local group throughout the year by email and other accessible ways



- Discuss the views of local disabled people with their local group



- Discuss the Government's themes with the local group



- They will also go to a **Ministerial Advisory Group** every three months.

The **Ministerial Advisory Group** brings Network chairs and members of the Government together to talk about their work and ideas.



They will talk about the ideas from their local Network meeting with the **Ministerial Advisory Group**.



Their skills and experience

The chair must:

- Understand about disability issues



- Make sure all members have a chance to speak at Network meetings



- Be fair



- Be able to talk to different people with different ideas and views



- Be able to talk about other people's views even if they don't agree with them



- Be part of a team and work together

What will members of the Networks do?



The Government is looking for disabled people and local disability organisations to join the Regional Networks for one year.

People should:



- Understand about disability
- Be able to speak up for disabled people in their local area
- Have links with disabled groups in their local area
- Know about the issues that affect disabled people in their local area



If you join the Network you will:

- Communicate with local disability organisations
- Speak up about the views of local disabled people to the rest of the Network



You need to be fair.



You need to be able to explain the views of local disabled people in a way that:

- Explains all of their issues
- Is fair to all different disabled people



You need to be able to:

- Explain people's views, even if you don't agree with them
- Bring together people with different views
- Help people with different views to communicate with each other in a good way

How you should work



People who are chosen to be on the Network must work for the good of all disabled people.



Members of the Network must be committed to the seven principles of public life.

The seven principles of public life

Members must show they are committed to:



1. Selflessness

You should work for everyone's good.



2. Integrity

You should not let anyone outside tell you how to do this work.



You must say if you have any business that affects your work for the Government.



You should not make money for yourself out of this work.



3. Objectivity

You should make your decisions after looking at all the information and deciding what is best for everyone.



4. Accountability

You should be ready to explain why you have made your decision.



5. Openness

You should be ready to:

- Give the reasons for making your decisions
- Tell people about the information you used to make the decision



6. Honesty

You must tell the truth.



7. Leadership

You should help other people to behave properly by behaving properly yourself.

How we choose who will become the chair or members of each network



A group of people at the ODI will read through all the applications.



They will look at who has the skills and experience we said we wanted for the role.



If two or more people are equally suitable for the role we will ask them to come to an interview.



Interviews will be held in a fully accessible place in London.



ODI will suggest to the Minister for Disabled People who they think should join the Network.



The Minister will make the final decision.



The Minister may want to meet some of the people who applied to join the Network.



We hope to have chosen people by mid-April 2019.



We want to hold the first meeting in May 2019.

Equal opportunities



Equal opportunities means giving everyone a fair chance.

ODI will give everyone a fair chance when choosing who will become members. This means giving a fair chance to:



- People with a different race, or ethnic background



- Disabled people



- People who have different religions



- Men and women



- People of all ages



- People who are married, not married or in a civil partnership



- People who are pregnant or have a new baby



- People who have changed their gender



- Gay people

How we look after your information



The law says that we must look after people's personal information properly.



Any information about you will be kept safe.



Only people who need to see your personal information will see it.



We may use some of your information to make sure that we are being fair to everyone. If we do this, no one will know the information has come from you.



If we don't choose you to join the Network we will keep your information for up to 12 months.

But we will only do this with your agreement.

How to apply



If you are interested in joining the Network please complete the application form.



You have to answer all the questions fully or you won't be able to join the Network.



All the information you give will be kept private and confidential.



But if you are chosen to be on the Network, some of your information will be given to the news media when we tell them about the Network. We will check with you first.



Your applications should be sent to us at:

Email: odi.contactus@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



Post:

Office for Disability Issues

2nd Floor

Caxton House

7-12 Tothill Street

London SW1H 9DA



The closing date for applications is 29th March 2019.



Accessible Formats

If you want the application form, or any of the information in a different form - like Braille or large print - please contact:



Email: odi.contactus@dwp.gsi.gov.uk



ODI will let you know when we have received your application. ODI will also let you know if you are chosen to be on the Network.