



Disability Unit



Easy
Read

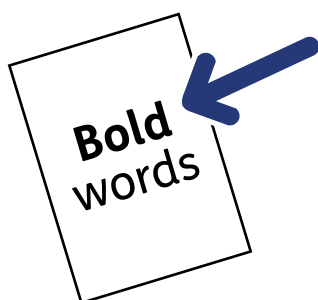
The UK Government's report to the United Nations about the rights of disabled people

2022



Contents

Introduction.....	3
What we have done since the last report	4
Recommendation 1.....	4
Recommendation 2.....	6
Recommendation 3.....	7
Recommendation 4	11
Recommendation 5	14
Recommendation 6	16
Recommendation 7	17
Recommendation 8	19
Recommendation 9	21
Recommendation 10.....	23



In this Easy Read document, hard words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after we have used them.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links that will go to another website which has more information.

Introduction



The **United Nations (UN)** wants the UK Government to write a follow-up report about what we are doing to improve the **rights** of disabled people.



The **United Nations (UN)** is an organisation made up of many countries working together to make the world a safer and better place.



Rights are things that every person should be allowed to have and do by law.



In 2016, part of the UN called the 'UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' gave us some **recommendations** to improve disability rights in the UK. **Recommendations** are like suggestions or ideas.



This is an Easy Read version of our report, explaining what we have done about the UN's recommendations up to 2022.

What we have done since the last report



In 2016 the UN Committee gave us 10 recommendations to improve the rights of disabled people in the UK.

This is what we have done towards the recommendations between 2021 and 2022:

Recommendation 1



The UN Committee asked us to check that we are being fair to disabled people when we make important decisions.

What the Government has done:



- Every year we look at how we spend money.

We check that the way we spend money is fair to everyone.



- This year we found that the poorest families will get more money from **public spending** than they will have to pay in tax.



Public spending means the way we spend government money on services for people, like health and education services.



- The Scottish Government has been checking that they are fair when supporting disabled people to get a job.



- The Welsh Government has been looking at how they can make sure that their laws and policies are fair to disabled people.



- The Northern Ireland Government has been looking at how the **benefits** system affects disabled people.
Benefits is money the Government gives to some people to help pay for the things they need to live.

Recommendation 2



The UN Committee asked us to make sure that any changes to benefits are fair to disabled people.

What the Government has done:



- We check to see how important decisions affect disabled people and how they are able to live their lives.



- We will continue to work on making the benefits system better for disabled people.



- The Scottish Government has involved disabled people when planning disability support.



- The Welsh Government is working on checking and making sure that disabled people get their rights.

Recommendation 3

The UN Committee asked us to protect the rights and needs of disabled people when we make new plans for:



- Where and how disabled people live.



- What benefits disabled people get.

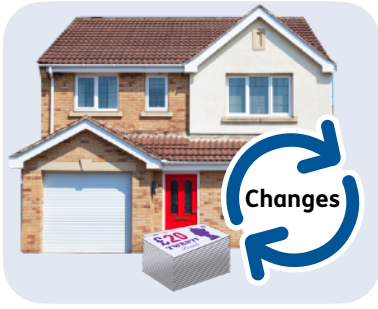
What the Government has done:



- Continued to work on how we can make new homes more **accessible** for disabled people.



Accessible means it is easy to use and suitable for people with different needs.



- Spent money on supporting disabled people to make changes to their homes so that they meet their needs.



- Continued to put money into the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund, which works to provide housing for people with support needs.



- The Welsh Government is looking at the kind of housing disabled people need.

Supporting local councils



- We have given local councils money to help them make sure that buildings in local areas have **Changing Places toilets**.



Changing Places toilets are completely accessible and have enough space and equipment for people who can't use the toilet on their own.



- The Scottish Government have spent money on having more Changing Places toilets and making outdoor events more accessible.



- The Northern Ireland Government has been working with disabled people to create a plan on how to improve the lives of disabled people.

Supporting social care



- In 2022 we introduced a rule that health and social care staff must have training on how to care for people with a learning disability and autistic people.



- We have worked to change adult social care and make sure disabled people are able to access local community services.



- The Scottish Government introduced a new law called the 'National Care Service Bill'. It will create the National Care Service to improve social care support.

Supporting disabled people to get a job



- We have supported disabled people to get a job and stay in work.

There are 1.3 million more disabled people who have a job now than in 2017.



- Fair Start Scotland gives support to those who find it hardest to get a job, including disabled people.

Since 2018 they have helped more than 18,000 disabled people to get a job.



- In 2022 the Welsh Government created a new plan called 'Stronger, fairer, greener Wales' which includes ways of supporting disabled people to get the skills they need to work.



- The Northern Ireland Government supported a meeting in Belfast with people from the world, called the ‘Harkin International Disability Employment Summit’.

It was about supporting disabled people in work and it created over 400 jobs for disabled people.

Recommendation 4



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

What the Government has done:



- Continued to give money to lots of different services that support disabled people.



- Increased the amount of benefits for disabled people.



- Decided to give disabled people a one time payment of £150 to help them pay for bills, which are costing more money.



- Decided to give £650 to people who get a low income benefit, to help them pay for their bills.



- Worked to make sure carers are supported.

Direct payments can be made to parents of disabled children to pay for their children's services, and to carers and disabled people to meet their care and support needs.



- The Government has given over £1 billion to local councils to help them pay for social care services.



- Created a way to collect information to find out how useful the **Community Discharge Grant** is.

The **Community Discharge Grant** is money that helps disabled people who are leaving hospital to go back to living in their local area.



- In Scotland and Northern Ireland more people are getting money from the **Independent Living Fund**, so they have more control over their lives.

The **Independent Living Fund** is money you can get to help you **live independently**.



Living independently means having choice and control over the care and support services you need to live the way you want to.



- The Welsh Government has spent more money on making changes to houses so that they meet the needs of disabled people.

Recommendation 5



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

What the Government has done:



- Introduced a law called the British Sign Language Act which says the Government should raise awareness of, and increase the use of, British Sign Language when it provides information to the public.



- Made sure the **Access to Work** service is easy to use for disabled people.

Access to Work is a service that helps disabled people to get a job and stay in work.



- Continued to have the option of online and telephone meetings with disabled people, during COVID-19.



- Looked at government websites to check they are easy to use for disabled people.



- In Scotland there is a law that says that the Government must make information accessible to everyone.



- The Scottish Government has continued to support and spend money on a service called **Contact SCOTLAND BSL**. **Contact SCOTLAND BSL** helps people who are deaf or deaf and blind to use the telephone.



- The Welsh Government is training more people to use British Sign Language.



- The Northern Ireland Government is training more people who work at the Northern Ireland Civil Service to know how to support disabled people.

Recommendation 6



The UN Committee asked us to make sure disabled people can use the courts when they are not getting their proper rights.

What the Government has done:



- This year we gave a lot more money to law centres and other charities so they can give legal advice to people.



- Supported disabled people to know how to contact the courts and get their needs met during court cases.

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

Recommendation 7



The UN Committee asked us to involve disabled people when we are planning a law or policy that may affect their rights.

What the Government has done:



- Worked closely with charities and organisations of disabled people.



- Set up workshops to discuss how we can improve the way we involve disabled people.



- Continued to work on the Regional Stakeholder Network in England. This is a network of groups of disabled people, parents and carers who tell us what they think about ideas for new laws and policies.



- Worked to include disabled people when we planned or changed a law.



- The Scottish Government has been working with organisations of disabled people to make plans for how to improve and change services.



- The Welsh Government has planned to make a new disability rights action plan, with the help of disabled people.



- The Northern Ireland Government has a new set of plans to improve the lives of disabled people, which they made with the help of disabled people.

Recommendation 8

The UN Committee asked us to:



- Stop TV, radio, and the news from showing disabled people as people who can't do things for themselves.



- Deal with **hate crime** and bullying against disabled people.

Hate crime is being harassed or attacked because people think you are different.

What the Government has done:



- We take all hate crime very seriously. There is a law that says that the people who commit hate crimes against disabled people should be punished.



- Given more money this year to help schools to stop children from bullying disabled children.



- Continued working on a new law about keeping people safe online.



- Worked to improve the way people think about autistic people.



- In Scotland, the Hate Crime Strategic Partnership Group met for the first time and discussed new plans to stop hate crime in Scotland.



- The Welsh Government set up the Wales Hate Support Centre, which gives free support to all people who have been a victim of hate crime.



- In Northern Ireland a new person took on the role of Victims of Crime Commissioner Designate. Part of this role is to look at the needs of people who have had to deal with hate crime.

Recommendation 9



The UN Committee asked us to make sure that we think about different groups of disabled people when we set up new services. This includes:



- Disabled people who may have less money.



- People that have more than one disability.

What the Government has done:



We have supported and encouraged different services to involve disabled people when making important decisions and to check how they affect disabled people.



- The Scottish Government has continued to work on their plan to protect people's **human rights**.

Human rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.



- The Welsh Government has worked to make sure people are getting the benefits that they are allowed to get.



- The Northern Ireland Government is involving disabled people in creating a new plan to support disabled people. They are also creating a plan for people who may have less money.

Recommendation 10



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

What the Government has done:



- We give regular information about how disabled people are included in schools, housing, and local communities.

We are going to improve how we collect this information.



- In Scotland, the Government is looking at recommendations about how they can check people are getting their human rights.



- The Welsh Government is planning to ask disabled people some questions about what stops them from living the life they want.

They will use the answers to collect information about how to help disabled people live the life they want.