



HM Government



Disability Unit

Regional Stakeholder Network

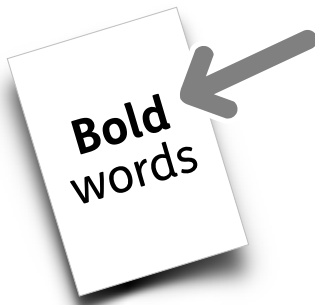
Information Pack



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Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
About the Regional Stakeholder Network	4
The Chairs of the Regional Stakeholder Groups	7
How to apply to be a Chair	11
Choosing the Chairs	12
How the Chairs should behave	13
Equal opportunities	15



In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



The government has set up the **Regional Stakeholder Network** to help us to understand what disabled people think.



The **Regional Stakeholder Network** is made up of 9 Regional Stakeholder Groups. These groups tell the government what they think about issues that affect disabled people.



Each group is led by a **Chair**. The chair runs the group and tells the government what the group thinks.



This information pack gives more information about the Regional Stakeholder Network. You can also read more at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/disability-unit-regional-stakeholder-network>

About the Regional Stakeholder Network



The Regional Stakeholder network began in 2019.



It is run by the government's Disability Unit.



How it works

There are 9 Regional Stakeholder Groups in England:

- North West.
- North East.
- Yorkshire and the Humber.
- West Midlands.
- East Midlands.
- South West.
- South East.
- East of England.
- Greater London.



Each Regional Stakeholder Group:

- Has between 10 and 40 disabled people.



- Has a Chair and a deputy Chair.



- Should meet 4 times a year. They usually meet online but can also meet face-to-face.



The Chairs of all the Regional Stakeholder Groups meet up with the Disability Unit every month online.

How the government listens to disabled people



The Minister for Social Security and Disability, currently The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP, will meet the Chairs of the Regional Stakeholder Groups to hear what people are saying every 3 months.



Different parts of the government will get information about what the Regional Stakeholder Groups have been saying.



The government will tell the Regional Stakeholder Groups how they have used the information.

The Chair of the North East Regional Stakeholder Group



We are looking for a Chair for the North East Regional Stakeholder Group.

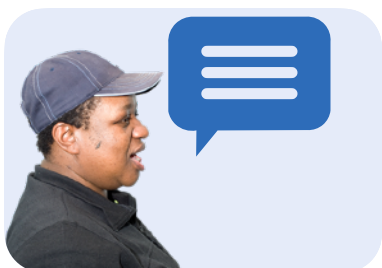


Chairs should tell us about their life either as a disabled person or as someone who supports a disabled person, or their deep awareness of the issues facing disabled people. Chairs represent groups of disabled people in each region.



They should:

- understand about disabled people
- have links with organisations of disabled people in their area
- live and/or work in the North East
- be able to speak up for disabled people in their area





The Chairs must be able to:

- organise and run the meetings



- be fair to everyone



- tell the government what people at their meetings were saying

The Chairs should:



- be confident



- encourage more people to join the group



- understand all the different points of view of disabled people in the group



- help people who have different ideas to work together



- help people in the group to work well together



Pay and expenses

The Chairs are not paid.



They can be given some money to pay for any administrative support they need (up to £300 per month) to organise and run the group and meetings.



Private

People who go to the meetings are allowed to share any information that they hear.



But they must not say who has said it.



You must say that any information has come from the network - not any particular person.

How to apply



If you are interested in being the North East Chair of the Regional Stakeholder Group, you must complete an application form.



There is an Easy Read version of the application form.



You should send your completed application form:

- By email to:
disabilityunit@cabinetoffice.gov.uk



- By post to:
Disability Unit Correspondence Team
Cabinet Office
1 Horse Guards Road
Home Zone 6, Floor 4
London SW1A 2HQ

We need to receive your application form by **Friday 25 April 2025**.

Choosing the Chairs



We look at everyone's application form.



We check to see if they have the skills and experience that we want.



If there is more than 1 person who we think would be a good Chair, we may ask them to come to an online interview.



The minister makes the final decision about who should be the Chair of each of the Regional Stakeholder Groups.

If your application is unsuccessful, your personal data will be destroyed after 12 months.

How the Chairs should behave

The Chairs should:



- think about other people, not themselves – and not progress individual cases



- listen to, and gather, other people's views



- be fair to everyone



- be ready to explain why they have done something



- make sure people can see how they have made decisions



- be honest and truthful



- treat other people with respect

Equal opportunities



We want to be fair in the way that we choose who will be the Chair of the Regional Stakeholder Group.

We will not treat anyone differently because of their:



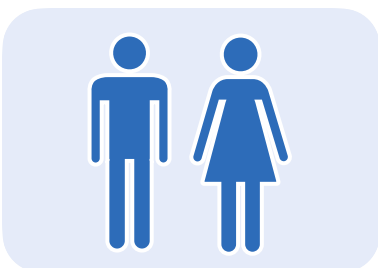
- race or **ethnic background** – your **ethnic background** is your race and the country that your family came from



- disability



- religion



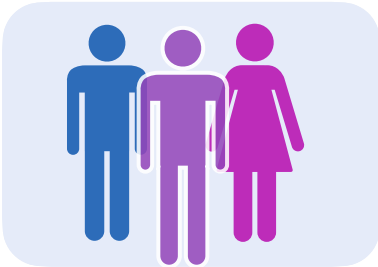
- sex



- sexual orientation - this means which gender you are attracted to (for example, male, female or both)



- age



- gender - or if they have changed their gender

This Easy Read information has been produced by easy-read-online.co.uk and updated by the Disability Unit.