



Department
for Work &
Pensions



Keep Britain Working

Supporting people to stay in work

Things we have been doing so far
and things we are working on



About this easy read



This is the easy read of a bigger report by the UK Government.



It is about supporting people with their health or a disability at work.



This easy read tells you about some of the things in the bigger report.



You do not have to read this easy read all at once if you don't want to.



You could ask someone to help you read it, if you need to.

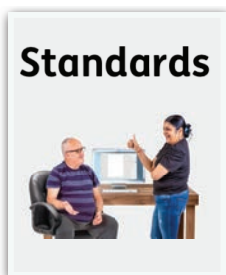
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About Keep Britain Working



Lots of people feel like they have to leave their jobs.

This is because of illness, a **health condition** or a disability.



A **health condition** is a problem that affects your body.

Things like having a bad back, pain, or problems with your heart or breathing.



Or it could be to do with your **mental health**.

Your **mental health** affects your thoughts, feelings and how you cope in everyday life.



We need to support people with their health and disability at work.



The Government is doing some work called **Keep Britain Working**.



It will support people to stay in their work when they can.



It will support people to come back to their work after being off sick.



And it will support disabled people to stay in work.



We are working closely with **employers**, disabled people and health services to make Keep Britain Working happen.



Your **employer** is the person or place you work for.

About this report



In June 2026, we wrote a report about the work we have been doing on Keep Britain Working.



It told you about things we were working on in 2026.



This report tells you what we have been doing since June.



There are 3 big things we have been working on.

Big thing 1: Write a standard



Standards are like rules.
They say what should happen.
And how things should be done.



This standard is about a new way
of working for employers.
It would help employers to support
people with their health at work.



We have worked together with lots
of employers across the country.



They have helped us to come up with
some rules we think could go in the
new standard.

Testing some of the rules



We have had some ideas about how to make some of the rules clear and easy to understand.



We will test our ideas with employers.



We will test them with staff and disabled people too.



This will help us to see if our ideas will help.

And if we should put these ideas in the standard.



Some of the ideas we are testing are:

Giving people early help and support

Employers will talk to staff about any support they need.



This should be done within 8 weeks of someone starting a new job.

Keeping people in work

If staff have a health problem, they should tell their employer as soon as they can.



The employer should talk to the person about their health problem.



This should happen within 5 days of the person telling them about the problem.



The person and their employer should write a **stay in work plan**.

The plan will say what the person needs to help them stay in work.



Staff might need their employer to make some changes so they can do their job.



Things like letting the person work from home.



Or a person might have a bad back.

The employer might need to buy them a special chair to sit in.



Employers should make these changes quickly.

Supporting people back to work



If someone is off work sick, the employer should contact them within 3 days.



The person and the employer should write a **return to work plan**.

Return to work plans say how to support a person to come back to work.



People who are likely to be off work for 4 weeks or more should really have one.



Or people who have a health problem that will last for a long time.



People should start to get any help they need to come back to work within 10 days.



Employers should keep in touch with staff when they are off work sick.



They should check how people are doing 6 months after they come back to work.



Including everyone

The standard will help employers to include disabled people.



But employers need to start collecting better information.

Every year, they should check how many disabled staff they have.



And they should check how many disabled staff come back to work after being off sick.



Employers should also look at what other employers are doing.



This will help them learn how to support disabled people better at work.

Big thing 2: Agree on a new service called the Workplace Health Provision



Employers and staff would be able to contact the service when they need support with health and work.



We have been working on what the new service should do.



Employers and staff might get help from a **case manager**.

A **case manager** helps staff and employers with health and work problems.



They help people get the right support to stay in work.

Or to come back to work if they have been off sick.



The case manager can give staff and employers good information about health at work.



The can tell employers which support services could help.

Support services are things like:

Counselling services

They have people you can talk to about your worries or how you are feeling.



Occupational health services

They help people with health problems to stay in work.
Or to come back to work after being off sick.



They give people information and support.



Physiotherapy services

They help you with moving your body.
Or help you to cope with pain.



The case manager will help people get
the support they need quickly.



Things like someone to talk to if you
are having problems with your mental
health.



The new service means employers
would not need to contact lots of
different services anymore.



They would only need to contact
1 place for help.

Testing the new service



Big companies have a lot of people who work for them.



They may already have support services for their staff.

Or they can afford to pay for support when people need it.



A small company does not have as many staff.



They might not have used support services.

Or they might not know where to get help from.



We want to make sure small companies can afford to use the new service.



We will test what support small companies need from the service.



And we will test how small companies could afford to pay for the new service.

Big thing 3: Collect information



Across the country, information about health and work is collected in different ways.



This makes it hard to understand what information we have already.



We need to collect good information from employers and staff.



1. Information from employers

We will look at what information employers already have about health and work.



We will check if employers collect information in the same way.



We will think about what information would help employers.



We will think about how to look after the information people give us.



We will make sure we keep it safe.

2. Information from staff



One idea is for staff to fill in a work and health **toolkit**.

The **toolkit** is a bit like a check staff can do.



Staff can answer questions about any health problems they have.



Then the toolkit will tell them what support they could get at work.



The toolkit sends information about people's health to employers.



But it does not send them people's names.



This means the employer will not know who wrote the answers.



We will keep testing the toolkit.



We want to find out if people are likely to use it.



And if it will help people with their health.

A new team to collect information



We want to set up a new team.
They will help to collect information
about health, disability and work.



The team would look at information
from employers across the country.



Things like what health problems
people are having at work.
And what kinds of support work well.



The team would share what they find
out with employers.



Employers could use it to make things
better at work.

What we will do next



We will keep testing the standard to make sure it works well for staff and employers.



We will keep working to make sure all employers can afford the new service.



We will keep testing ways to collect useful information about health and work.



We will keep working closely with lots of employers across the country.



We will work with local councils and Governments in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland too.

More information



We have more easy read booklets about Keep Britain Working.



You can find them on our website:
**[www.gov.uk/government/
collections/keep-britain-working](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/keep-britain-working)**