

Cover Letter for the UK's formal report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Disabled People

Enclosed is the UK's formal report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of Disabled People on specific recommendations raised in the UK's periodic review in 2017, and a complementary report highlighting work across Government on the disability agenda.

This Government is as committed as ever to eliminating barriers so that everyone can participate in society. This commitment aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention), which protects and promotes the rights of disabled people. Both reports demonstrate how we are implementing the Convention and describe the UK's progress over the last 12 months in creating more opportunities for disabled people to participate and thrive.

The two reports showcase the positive actions taking place across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to support disabled people, through legislation, policies and programmes that eliminate the barriers to inclusion faced by disabled people.

As both reports show, we are supporting more disabled people into work and there are now 3.9 million disabled people in work, a number which is growing. We are showing our commitment to engage with more disabled stakeholders through the launch of the Regional Stakeholder Network. We are enabling every child to fulfil their potential in education. We are investing in a transport system accessible for everyone and have committed £300million to improving accessibility. We are providing world class health provision for all and are making plans to make the UK the safest place in the world to be online. We are paving the way to make sport accessible for everyone. We are enabling more people to access public places and enjoy life and creating a public service that reflects the society it serves. We are also improving the lives of disabled people across the world through our international development work.

To build on this, we launched a new cross-Government approach on disability in June. This will be led by a new unit based in the Cabinet Office and will bring disability issues into the very heart of Government. This new unit will work closely with disabled people to ensure that lived experience underpins regular and coordinated action across Government.

The new unit, together with improved stakeholder engagement, and the range of great policy work going on across Government, will ensure that we continue to break down barriers so that all people, regardless of their disability or health condition, are able to participate in their community and reach their full potential.