

Response ID ANON-HJ4K-M8NM-H

Submitted to Disability Action Plan consultation
Submitted on 2023-10-06 15:57:06

Introduction

Section 1 - Improving disability inclusion in existing government policies

Access to elected office

1a To what extent do you agree with proposals to review funding support and create an online hub to improve access to elected office for disabled people?

Not Answered

1b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

1c If you know of existing guidance or training for disabled candidates to elected office that you think should be included on the GOV.UK webpage, please share them here. You can include hyperlinks to information.

Enter your answer here:

Playground accessibility

2a To what extent do you agree with the proposal to create a hub of guidance about playground accessibility?

Not Answered

2b To what extent do you agree that the voluntary standards for playground accessibility should be made mandatory?

Not Answered

2c If you would like to explain your answer, please do so.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

2d If you know of existing guidance that the Disability Unit should consider including on the hub, please share them. You can include hyperlinks to information.

Enter your answer here:

Emergency planning and resilience work

3a To what extent do you agree with the proposed plan to increase disability inclusion in emergency planning and resilience work?

Strongly agree

3b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

As noted, currently government departments must consider disabled people in emergency planning and resilience work as part of their Public Sector Equality Duty and on the railways there is strict guidance with regards to dealing with emergencies. We are supportive of an increase in cross governmental engagement between disabled people's organisations and relevant policy makers, whilst the DfT has taken steps to improve disability access there is still much more work needed and an increase in the engagement across government departments and in the involvement of representatives of disabled people should help to speed up accessibility works on the railway.

It is important that the views of disabled people are properly considered. We have seen recently how a lack of proper engagement with groups representing disabled people has allowed the DfT via the RDG to draw up plans to close all ticket offices on the railways in England. As was highlighted by trade unions and disabled groups these plans would severely damage the accessibility to rail for disabled people and would hamper the ability of operators to deal with emergencies and ensure there is resilience across the railway network to provide meet their equality duties in emergency planning and resilience work.

3c If there are particular Disabled People's Organisations that you think should be engaged in this area, please share them.

Enter your answer here:

From a transport perspective - Transport for All, Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, Disability Rights UK & Reclaiming our Futures Alliance

Climate adaptations and mitigations

4a To what extent do you agree with the need to focus on the emerging area of climate adaptations and mitigations?

Strongly agree

4b If there is anything further that you would like the government to do to increase disability inclusion in climate adaptations and mitigations, or you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

There needs to be a greater push to improve accessibility on the railways at a quicker rate to ensure that it is integrated with other modes of public transport which themselves are also accessible such as trams and buses. This will ensure that disabled people have the same opportunities to access services in towns and cities which are connected by public transport and particularly those in which climate change mitigations are being introduced such as in cities where the roads are congested leading to the need for CAZ and ULEZ

4c The Disability Unit has already identified Clean Air Zones (CAZ) and the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) policies as an area for action. Please tell us if there are other climate adaptations or mitigations that require greater disability inclusion?

Enter your answer here:

Investment in the railways or lack of. Public transport use must be increased to reduce the UK's emissions, however the proposed closure of ticket offices and potential de-staffing of railways shows a lack of care for the impact this will have for disabled passengers.

The highlighted climate adaptations can only be delivered if there is proper investment in public transport at the same time to encourage a modal shift and of course this transport must be truly accessible and planned with onward journey accessibility in mind. i.e. having stations and stops accessible and in areas where a disabled passenger is safe to alight such as on to an appropriate pavement from a bus.

Section 2 - New actions focussed on the specific needs of disabled people

Disability Enabled Badge

5a To what extent do you agree that this scheme would give increased confidence to disabled customers when accessing businesses or services?

Not Answered

5b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Special Olympics World Summer Games

6a To what extent do you agree with the proposal to explore hosting the Special Olympics Summer Games in Great Britain as a way of meeting this aim?

Not Answered

6b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

6c To help lay the groundwork for a bid, please inform us of any learning disability sports organisations that you think should be engaged, if the Special Olympics Summer Games were hosted in Great Britain?

Enter your answer here:

Addressing access refusals for guide dogs

7a To what extent do you agree with the proposed plan to work more closely with the guide dog sector to establish what more government can do to address access refusals of guide dogs?

Not Answered

7b To what extent do you agree that increasing fines would address the issue of access refusals for guide dogs?

Not Answered

7c If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Raising the profile of assistive technology

8a To what extent do you agree that access to assistive technology would be improved by better-informed advice from public sector staff?

Not Answered

8b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Section 3 - Improving cross-government collaboration

Wellbeing and opportunities for disabled children

9a To what extent do you agree with each of the following proposed areas of focus?

Not Answered

Strongly agree

Not Answered

Not Answered

9b If there are other issues that you think this taskforce should consider, or you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Support for disabled parents

10a To what extent do you agree with each of the following proposed areas of focus?

Not Answered

Not Answered

Not Answered

10b If there are other issues that you think this taskforce should consider, or you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Section 4 - Strengthening the evidence base

Disability evidence and data improvement programme

11a To what extent do you agree with this proposed approach to evidence and evaluation?

Not Answered

11b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Disability foresight

12a To what extent do you agree that the Disability Unit should focus some of its evidence and insight work on anticipating future challenges for disabled people, rather than focusing solely on further exploring known needs?

Not Answered

12b If you would like to explain your answer, please do so here.

Enter your answer here (suggested maximum 500 words):

Section 5 - Your views on the Disability Action Plan as a whole

13 What do you think of the plans and suggested areas of action described in this consultation as a whole? Are these the right things for the government to be focusing on over the next year?

Enter your answer here:

14 What alternative actions might the government consider that would make a positive difference to the lives of disabled people?

Enter your answer here:

About you

1 Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

About your organisation

2 What type of organisations or networks does your response represent?

Trade union

If Other, enter here:

3a Whose views does your organisation or network represent?

Organisations

3b How many members does your organisation or network represent?

1000+

4 Where does your organisation or network operate?

Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland)

If Other, enter here:

5 What is your role in the organisation or network?

Trade Union representative

If Other, enter here: