

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/202/25

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Minister for Social Security and Disability

Minister.SSD@dwp.gov.uk

28 April 2025

Dear Stephen,

I am writing to bring to your attention the recently published report by the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee titled '[Anything's Achievable with the Rights Support: Tackling the Disability Employment Gap](#)'. The report draws upon evidence provided to the Committee by a wide range of stakeholders, including trade unions, employer associations, careers advisors and representatives from the disability rights sector. The Welsh Government will be responding to report's recommendations in due course.

Some elements of the report relate to reserved matters, specifically, recommendation 4 on the Disability Confident Scheme and conclusion 5 on Access to Work.

Regarding the recommendation on the Disability Confident Scheme, the report calls for changes to strengthen the scheme, encouraging more employers to participate and ensuring it effectively supports disabled people. We broadly agree with this recommendation. I understand that our respective officials have discussed the scheme and that the UK Government is interested in exploring ways to make the scheme more robust in due course. We would welcome continued engagement on this matter.

In the meantime, my officials, including our team of Disabled People's Employment Champions are continuing to raise awareness of Disability Confident. Our objective is to increase the number of Disability Confident Leaders (Level 3) in Wales, particularly in the devolved public sector.

Regarding Access to Work, the report calls for a review of the scheme to ensure it is more accessible and effective for disabled people. This includes addressing the operational challenges and ensuring timely support for those who need it. I understand that a review of Access to Work is subject to the consultation on the Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper. We will reference Access to Work in the Welsh Government's wider response to the Pathways to Work green paper.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Welsh Government is committed to identifying and removing barriers that prevent disabled people from participating in the workforce, remaining in work, and progressing their careers. The Disability Confident Scheme and Access to Work has an important role and we believe collaboration with the UK Government is essential to achieve meaningful progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a bold, cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the entire name.

Jack Sargeant AS/MS

Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol