



ODInsight

News from Office for Disability Issues

Working across government to deliver equality for disabled people

Issue 004 - June 2008



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What's happening

ODI launches support for effective communication



Key point

ODI launches new best practice communications guidance for government.

Does your job involve communication?
Do you want to be ahead of the game on disability inclusion?

New best practice communications guidance has been launched as part of the Images of Disability initiative. It aims to support government communicators in actively promoting positive attitudes to disabled people by:

- involving disabled people from the start
- delivering accessible communications
- ensuring disabled people are positively represented.

The guidance will also help government communicators to meet their Disability Equality Duty obligations. It was produced with the involvement of disabled people and government communicators.

Read Images of Disability's [best practice guidance](#).

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→ Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, travelled to Canada in early May to visit the Canadian ODI. The trip enabled sharing of experiences and practice between the two ODIs. Anne met with key parliamentary and government officials at federal and provincial level and visited the Canadian ODI's new fully-accessible headquarters. She also met with a variety of disabled people's organisations and politicians with an interest in disability issues.

→ Consultation is underway on implementation and monitoring of the Government's Independent Living Strategy and how to involve disabled people in this. The first consultation event was held in York on 12 May, with another day being planned for London on 4 June. The strategy was developed in consultation with disabled people. To feed into the consultation go to the [Independent Living website](#).

→ The 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled Adults' conference takes place on 7 July in Central London. This one-day conference addresses the most urgent gaps in provision for promoting opportunity with disabled adults. Want to attend? [Find out more about the conference](#).

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Secretary of State meets key stakeholders



Key point

Key issues faced by disabled people discussed with Secretary of State.

James Purnell, Secretary of State, has been meeting with disabled people's organisations around the UK to learn more about some of the key issues faced by disabled people.

In late April he met to discuss Independent Living with a number of people including Jane Campbell, Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's Disability Committee, Lucy Mason, a member of the Alliance for Inclusive Education as well as academics.

He is planning to hold further meetings with disabled people's organisations in the coming months.

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Equality 2025 recruiting for a chairperson



Key point

Equality 2025 will shortly be recruiting for a chairperson to lead them in their work.

Are you interested in becoming the new Chair of Equality 2025?

Equality 2025 – the United Kingdom Advisory Network on Disability Equality - will shortly be recruiting for a chairperson.

As chairperson you would lead Equality 2025 in bringing the views and experiences of disabled people to the Westminster Government.

Established in December 2006, Equality 2025 is a network of 23 disabled people from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

It is an independent body, sponsored by the Office for Disability Issues, which aims to help improve the lives of

disabled people.

If you are interested in applying for this post, please keep an eye on [Equality 2025's website](#) during June and July for more details.

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ODI raises disability awareness across government



Key point

ODI raises awareness across government of the benefits of involving disabled people.

event.

The ODI highlighted the value of involving disabled people and how it can transform work practices at Civil Service Live held between 1 and 3 April.

Aimed to inspire innovation, [Civil Service Live](#) gave ODI the opportunity to increase awareness of the Disability Equality Duty, running workshops and a stand at the

Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, Leigh Lewis, DWP Permanent Secretary and Bruce Calderwood, ODI Director, were joined by members of Equality 2025 and ODI staff at Civil Service Live.

They demonstrated how using the [Disability Equality Duty](#) and involving disabled people can lead to innovative and collaborative approaches to policy design and service delivery.

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UN Convention on Disability Rights



Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, updated Parliament on the UN Convention on Disability Rights, issuing a Parliamentary Written Statement on 6 May.

Key point

Minister updates Parliament on progress towards ratification of the UN Convention on Disability Rights.

The statement addressed:

- the Government's response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights' (JCHR) recommendation about the Convention in its report 'A life like any other? Human Rights of Adults with Learning Disabilities'
- progress towards ratification of the Convention, including work by the Devolved Administrations and Government Departments to check their policies, practices and procedures against the Convention's provisions.

Read the written statement and response to the [JCHR's recommendation](#).

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Directgov consultation workshop

The Directgov logo, featuring the word "Directgov" in orange and black, with the tagline "Public services all in one place" below it.

Key point

Over 20 disability and carers organisations provide feedback on Directgov.

Representatives from over 20 disability and carers organisations attended an all-day workshop on Directgov's disabled people and caring for someone sections.

Held on 25 April in London, the workshop aimed to:

- discuss the information needs of disabled people and carers
- look at ways to fulfil these needs through the disabled people and caring for someone sections of the website.

The day was extremely useful, with representatives

providing valuable feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the sections.

Work is now underway to plan improvements to www.direct.gov.uk/disability and www.direct.gov.uk/carers, incorporating outcomes from the day.

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