

Weekly Political Update

30 October 2017

For further information on any of the parliamentary terms used in this document, please click [here](#).

Social care

Click on link for source

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Opposition day debate on Adult Social Care</p> | <p>Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South) moved the following motion:</p> <p><i>“I beg to move,</i></p> <p><i>That this House notes the Conservative Party’s manifesto commitment to a funding proposal for social care which would have no cap on care costs and would include the value of homes in the means test for care at home; further notes that this proposal would leave people with a maximum of only £100,000 of assets; calls on the Government to confirm its intention not to proceed with this commitment; and further calls on the Government to remove the threat to withdraw social care funding from, and stop fines on, local authorities for Delayed Transfers of Care and to commit to the extra funding needed to close the social care funding gap for 2017 and the remaining years of the 2017 Parliament.”</i></p> <p>Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South) then went on to say:</p> <p><i>“...We know that demand on social care is increasing as more people live longer with more complex conditions. The number of people aged 75 and over is projected nearly to double by 2039. That ought to be something to celebrate, but instead the Government have created fear and uncertainty for older people by failing to address the health and care challenges raised by those demographic changes. Indeed, the Conservative party is spending less money on social care now than Labour was when it left office in 2010. The Government seem to have no plan to develop a sustainable solution to the funding of social care in the longer term; they have talked only of a consultation followed by a Green Paper.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore—and this is raising real fears—the focus has been entirely on the needs of older people, without consideration being given to the needs of the 280,000 working-age people with disabilities or learning disabilities in the social care system. That is profoundly short-sighted, because the financial pressures on local authorities due to the increasing care needs of younger adults with disabilities or mental health problems are now greater than those due to the need to support older people.”</i></p> <p>Kate Green MP (Labour, Stretford and Urmston) said:</p> <p><i>“I am glad my hon. Friend has mentioned younger adults. Does she agree that investing in the care they need will facilitate the Government’s achievement of their ambition to have more disabled people who can work in</i></p> |
|---|--|

paid employment? Relatively low levels of expenditure on care for those people would pay great dividends for the Government and the country.”

Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South) replied:

“Very much so. I thank my hon. Friend for making that point. It is concerning that planned consultations or discussions about future policy should focus so much on older people, when the needs of people with disabilities and learning disabilities are so important. We talked about learning disabilities in a debate last week.”

Mark Harper MP (Conservatives Forest of Dean) said:

“In a spirit of cross-party consensus, may I add my support to the issue raised by the hon. Member for Stretford and Urmston (Kate Green) by urging that when we bring forward our consultation we cover the nearly 50% of social care spending that is spent on adults with disabilities? I share the view that we must make sure that they are properly supported and able to live full lives, including, where they are able, moving into work. That sometimes gets lost in the debate when we completely focus on people towards the ends of their lives. We must deal with everybody. The hon. Lady made a really important point.”

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) replied:

“I could not agree more. I share my right hon. Friend’s support for the hon. Lady’s comments. There are still many opportunities to get working-age adults with disabilities into work. We have set ourselves a target of getting 1 million more people with disabilities into work, and we are very committed to doing that.

In response to the point made by the hon. Member for Worsley and Eccles South in her opening remarks, yes, much of the debate has focused on how we care for the elderly, but, as she and the whole House will be aware, support for working-age adults is becoming an increasingly big proportion of local authority spending in this area, and it is very important that we focus on it. Alongside the preparations we are making for consultation in the new year, we have a parallel work stream looking specifically at working-age adults, because some of the solutions will be similar and some will be different.

Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, Barbara Keeley MP (Labour, Worsley and Eccles South) said:

“It is very important that we have got to this point today, because very many organisations and individuals have been worried for months about that. In the Queen’s Speech and in letters the Minister has sent to me, the talk has been of a consultation on social care for older people. The wording needs to change if that is to encompass, as it should, working-age people with disabilities or learning disabilities. Let us stop focusing just on older people. If she would stop doing that in letters and we could have clarity on this, it would be helpful. I also wonder why there has to be separate work stream.”

In response, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) said:

“There needs to be a separate work stream because it is connected to the desire to get more people into work, but the two programmes are working in parallel. As I said, today is a great opportunity to get that on the record. Certainly, it has been very much a focus of my conversations with voluntary groups in the sector.”

Mark Harper MP (Conservatives Forest of Dean) stated:

“Picking up the point about the work being separate but parallel, in thinking about how we are going to fund the care, it is really important to make sure that we do not inadvertently put in place any barriers to work, whereby somebody would find that moving into work would increase the cost of their care to the extent that working was of no consequence. That would not be an issue of funding care for older people, where there are some different challenges. A separate but parallel structure may well be the right one to go for.”

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) replied:

“Again, I agree with everything that my right hon. Friend says.

To reassure the hon. Member for Worsley and Eccles South, we will have plenty of opportunity to discuss all these issues in the new year. We want to progress this by building a real consensus, because it is a strategic challenge facing us all. Not only are we all living longer, but working-age adults with disabilities are living longer. That is a matter for celebration, and we must do everything we can to make sure that we can meet all our obligations to them.”

Kate Green MP (Labour, Stretford and Urmston) said:

“I am glad that we are spending time on this subject. The Minister will recognise, I am sure, that for working-age adults, relatively modest amounts of care may enable them to participate more fully in the workplace and in wider civil society. Will the separate but parallel work stream acknowledge that? I fear that there will be pressure just to look at the most severe and critical-level need, meaning that many people who could work with a small amount of help will be shut out of doing so.”

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP (Conservatives, Thurrock) responded:

“I could not put it better myself. Necessarily, the system will always focus more on those with the most need, but, as the hon. Lady says, we can get a lot more return from putting in good value for money measures that will support people to live independently and to be able to work. I am very keen to explore those areas.”

To read the debate in full, please click on the link on the left.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| <p><u>Written question on whether the consultation on social care will take account of working age disabled people</u></p> | <p>Stephen Timms (Labour, East Ham) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Health, what steps he plans to take to ensure that the consultation on social care will take account of the experiences of working age disabled people; and if he will make a statement.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health, Jackie Doyle-Price MP’s response (Conservatives, Thurrock):</p> <p><i>“I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 11 September 2017 and 12 October 2017 to Questions 8610 and 106560 respectively.”</i></p> |

The Action Plan on Hearing Loss

Click on link for source

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>Written question on whether the Government plans to respond to recommendations on patient-led assessments of core environments relating to people with hearing or sight loss</u></p> | <p>Mark Hendrick MP (Labour, Preston) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Health, whether he plans to respond to the recommendations on patient-led assessments of core environments relating to people who are hearing or sight-impaired of the Action Plan on Hearing Loss, published on 23 March 2015.”</i></p> <p>Jackie Doyle-Price MP’s response (Conservatives, Thurrock):</p> <p><i>“NHS England is actively involving patients in assessing healthcare providers’ performance against a range of criteria and identifying how services may be improved for the future. The Patient-Led Assessments of the Care Environment (PLACE) programme focuses on the areas which patients say matter in the non-clinical environment which impact on the patient experience of care: cleanliness; the condition, appearance and maintenance of healthcare premises; the extent to which the environment supports the delivery of care with privacy and dignity; and the quality and availability of food and drink.</i></p> <p><i>NHS England is developing the PLACE assessments for future years to make the assessments more patient-led by adjusting the balance between patient assessors and staff assessors. In addition, questions will be developed within PLACE to focus on the needs of people with hearing and/or sight loss. This will allow the National Health Service to capture whether, where and how the experience of care is poorer for people who are hearing and/or sight impaired, and if scores for this group are poor, principles of good practice will be identified to help organisations improve.”</i></p> |
|--|---|

Employment

Click on link for source

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Written question on what support the Department for Work and Pensions will provide recipients</u></p> | <p>Lilian Greenwood MP (Labour, Nottingham South) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support his Department has provided to Access to Work recipients whose grants will be reduced in April 2018 due to the end of the transition period for the cap on awards.”</i></p> |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>who will have their Access to Work grants reduced</u></p> | <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>"Access to Work customers identified as being affected by the award limit have been contacted each year by specialist advisers to review and discuss their needs and progress towards managing within the cap amount once their transitional protection ends.</i></p> <p><i>Advisers have promoted workplace assessments and technological solutions; we will also be inviting affected customers to take part in a trial of Personalised Budgets in order to give grant recipients greater choice and control in meeting their needs from their grants."</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on the number of people with hearing loss and other conditions who are still in receipt of Access to Work awards of above £42,800 during the transition period for the cap on awards</u></p> | <p>Lilian Greenwood MP (Labour, Nottingham South) has asked <i>"the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many (a) people whose primary medical condition is difficulty in hearing and (b) other recipients of Access to Work grants (i) are still in receipt of awards above £42,800 during the transition period for the cap on awards and (ii) have been given awards at the level of the cap since its introduction in April 2015."</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>"The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost."</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on how many Access to Work reassessments have been conducted each year since 2009-2010</u></p> | <p>Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Debbie Abrahams MP (Labour, Oldham East and Saddleworth) has asked <i>"the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Access to Work reassessments have been conducted in each year since 2009-10."</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>"The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.</i></p> <p><i>We have recently published the following statistics on the number of people who have had Access to Work provision approved:</i> https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics.</p> <p><i>These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing development. They have therefore been designated as experimental statistics. We plan to publish these statistics on an annual basis and will explore the feasibility of expanding their scope to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as Access to Work payments. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage and can send feedback to: access.toworkstatistics@dwp.qsi.gov.uk. Your questions above will also be considered as part of the development of the statistics."</i></p> |

Written question on the number of people who received Access to Work support who were assessed but did not receive an element for 2009-2010

Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Debbie Abrahams MP (Labour, Oldham East and Saddleworth) has asked “*the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people who received support from the Access to Work scheme were assessed but did not receive an element for each year since 2009-10.*”

“The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

We have recently published the following statistics on the number of people who have had Access to Work provision approved:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics>.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing development. They have therefore been designated as experimental statistics. We plan to publish these statistics on an annual basis and will explore the feasibility of expanding their scope to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as Access to Work payments. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage and can send feedback to: access.toworkstatistics@dwp.qsi.gov.uk. Your questions above will also be considered as part of the development of the statistics.”

Written question on how many awards for Access to Work were stopped or reduced in each year since 2009-2010

Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Debbie Abrahams MP (Labour, Oldham East and Saddleworth) has asked “*the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many awards for Access to Work were (a) stopped and (b) reduced at review in each year since 2009-10.*”

Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):

“The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.

We have recently published the following statistics on the number of people who have had Access to Work provision approved:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics>.

These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing development. They have therefore been designated as experimental statistics. We plan to publish these statistics on an annual basis and will explore the feasibility of expanding their scope to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as Access to Work payments. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage and can send feedback to: access.toworkstatistics@dwp.qsi.gov.uk. Your questions above will also be considered as part of the development of the statistics.”

Written question on what the average length of Access to Work awards was for each year since 2009-10

Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Debbie Abrahams MP (Labour, Oldham East and Saddleworth) has asked “*the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average length of Access to Work awards was for each year since 2009-10.*”

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>"The information requested is not readily available and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost.</i></p> <p><i>We have recently published the following statistics on the number of people who have had Access to Work provision approved:</i></p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics.</p> <p><i>These statistics have been developed using guidelines set out by the UK Statistics Authority and are new official statistics undergoing development. They have therefore been designated as experimental statistics. We plan to publish these statistics on an annual basis and will explore the feasibility of expanding their scope to cover other parts of the Access to Work customer journey such as Access to Work payments. Users are invited to comment on the development and relevance of these statistics at this stage and can send feedback to: access.toworkstatistics@dwp.qsi.gov.uk. Your questions above will also be considered as part of the development of the statistics."</i></p> |
| <p><u>Oral work and pensions question on what progress is being made on the Health and Work programme</u></p> | <p>Alex Burghart MP (Conservatives, Brentwood and Ongar) has asked <i>"What progress is being made on the Health and Work programme."</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>"I am pleased to announce to the House that six contracts between the Department and the successful suppliers to the Health and Work Programme were signed on 29 September."</i></p> <p>Shadow Minister for Disabled People, Marsha De Cordova (Labour, Battersea) said <i>"The Government have backtracked on their commitment to halve the disability employment gap, and the funding for the Work and Health programme will be as little as £130 million a year, which is a fraction of what was set aside for the Work programme. Given the recent report from the UN committee on the rights of persons with disabilities, which condemned the Government's progress, can the Minister advise when they will finally publish their response to the "Work, health and disability" Green Paper? Will the Government respond to the UN's concerns and include high-quality, impairment-specific support, which disabled people have been calling for?"</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt MP responded by saying:</p> <p><i>"...Despite the weeks of the general election, we are still going to meet our original timetable to publish the health and work road map, which will set out in detail not just the Health and Work programme, which is only one small part of what we are planning, but a full comprehensive package to deliver personalised, tailored support for disabled people, support for employers, healthcare reforms and welfare reforms.</i></p> <p><i>The Office for Disability Issues is looking at the UN report; we volunteered to put ourselves through this process, and there is more we can do to lever in some of the things in that report to help achieve some of our ambitions, particularly on accessibility."</i></p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>To read in full please click on the link on the left</p> |
| <p><u>Written question on what steps the Government is taking to support disabled entrepreneurs</u></p> | <p>Iain Paisley MP (Democratic Unionist Party, North Antrim) has asked “<i>the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps the Government is taking to support disabled entrepreneurs.</i>”</p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“The Government provides schemes such as the New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) that offers business mentoring and financial support to people, including those with disabilities, aged 18 and over and on eligible benefits, who want to start a business. Latest statistics (to end April 2017) show that around 1 in 4 (44,080) people who have participated in the NEA have declared a disability, with 23,120 of these progressing to set up a business.</i></p> <p><i>Access to Work can also help disabled entrepreneurs who are self-employed or running a small business, by providing a discretionary grant as a contribution towards extra disability related workplace costs, for example funding for support workers, travel costs, and aids and adaptations, subject to qualifying criteria being met.</i></p> <p><i>The Office for Disability Issues is engaging with external experts to explore the potential for collaborative work on events and initiatives to support entrepreneurs that are disabled. The recently launched OpenLab community and website links together entrepreneurs with ideas around disability and technology with big businesses and others who may be able to support them in progressing their innovations.”</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on what steps the Government is taking to increase the number of disabled people in work</u></p> | <p>Neil Gray MP (SNP, Airdrie and Shotts) has asked “<i>the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of disabled people in work; and whether his Department is planning to set targets.</i>”</p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“The Government is committed to improving employment outcomes for disabled people. The manifesto commitment underpins this with a clear and time-bound goal to see 1 million more disabled people into work over the next 10 years.</i></p> <p><i>Since quarter 1 2016, the number of working aged disabled people in employment has increased by over 170,000 to 3.5 million in quarter 1 2017. The disability employment rate has increased by over 2 percentage points and now stands at 49 per cent.</i></p> <p><i>We know that there is much more that needs to be done, so that everyone who can work is given the right support and opportunities to do so. This</i></p> |

Autumn we intend to set out our next steps following last year's Improving Lives: Work, Health and Disability Green Paper and the consultation that followed this."

Written question on what the most recent breakdown is of different disabilities and conditions for those who receive Access to Work

Neil Gray MP (SNP, Airdrie and Shotts) has asked "the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the most recent breakdown is of different disabilities and conditions for those who receive Access to Work assistance."

Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):

"Although our approach has primarily been to work with Remploy and other partners and charities, using their effective networks and channels to reach potential recipients, we have also incurred some expenditure in marketing the scheme and the figures are set out below. We have also worked extensively to promote the Access to Work Scheme via Disability confident with stakeholders and partners such as the impairment specific charities and health practitioners.

Promotion of the Access to Work Scheme

| Year | Spend |
|---------|--------|
| 2014/15 | £0 |
| 2015/16 | £3,960 |
| 2016/17 | £9,639 |

The most recent published statistics show that the number of people who had any Access to Work provision approved in 2016/17 increased by nearly 8% from 2015/16.

Access to work remains a demand led programme but the figures relating to the overall Access to Work spend are set out in the additional table below.

Spend on the Access to Work Scheme

| | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Access to Work programme spend | £97.0m | £96m | £104m |
| Associated admin costs | £8m | £7.0m | £8m |
| Grand total | £105m | £103m | £112m |

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest £m.

Our most recent official experimental statistics that provide a breakdown of different disabilities and conditions for the number of people who had Access to Work provision approved can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics>.

Written question on how applications made to the Access to Work scheme were successful in England, Scotland and Wales in the last five years

Finally, the information relating to how many applications were made and successful in England, Scotland and Wales in the last five years is not readily available and has not previously been published as official statistics.”

Neil Gray MP (SNP, Airdrie and Shotts) has asked “*the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many applications were (a) made to the Access to Work scheme and (b) how many of those applications were successful in (i) England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in each of the last five years.*”

Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):

“Although our approach has primarily been to work with Remploy and other partners and charities, using their effective networks and channels to reach potential recipients, we have also incurred some expenditure in marketing the scheme and the figures are set out below. We have also worked extensively to promote the Access to Work Scheme via Disability confident with stakeholders and partners such as the impairment specific charities and health practitioners.

Promotion of the Access to Work Scheme

| Year | Spend |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2014/15 | £0 |
| 2015/16 | £3,960 |
| 2016/17 | £9,639 |

The most recent published statistics show that the number of people who had any Access to Work provision approved in 2016/17 increased by nearly 8% from 2015/16.

Access to work remains a demand led programme but the figures relating to the overall Access to Work spend are set out in the additional table below.

Spend on the Access to Work Scheme

| | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>Total Access to Work programme spend</i> | £97.0m | £96m | £104m |
| <i>Associated admin costs</i> | £8m | £7.0m | £8m |
| Grand total | £105m | £103m | £112m |

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest £m.

Our most recent official experimental statistics that provide a breakdown of different disabilities and conditions for the number of people who had Access to Work provision approved can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics>.

Written question on what steps the Government is taking to promote Access to Work

Finally, the information relating to how many applications were made and successful in England, Scotland and Wales in the last five years is not readily available and has not previously been published as official statistics.”

Neil Gray MP has asked “the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps his Department is taking to promote Access to Work.”

Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):

“Although our approach has primarily been to work with Remploy and other partners and charities, using their effective networks and channels to reach potential recipients, we have also incurred some expenditure in marketing the scheme and the figures are set out below. We have also worked extensively to promote the Access to Work Scheme via Disability confident with stakeholders and partners such as the impairment specific charities and health practitioners.

Promotion of the Access to Work Scheme

| Year | Spend |
|---------|--------|
| 2014/15 | £0 |
| 2015/16 | £3,960 |
| 2016/17 | £9,639 |

The most recent published statistics show that the number of people who had any Access to Work provision approved in 2016/17 increased by nearly 8% from 2015/16.

Access to work remains a demand led programme but the figures relating to the overall Access to Work spend are set out in the additional table below.

Spend on the Access to Work Scheme

| | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Access to Work programme spend | £97.0m | £96m | £104m |
| Associated admin costs | £8m | £7.0m | £8m |
| Grand total | £105m | £103m | £112m |

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest £m.

Our most recent official experimental statistics that provide a breakdown of different disabilities and conditions for the number of people who had Access to Work provision approved can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/access-to-work-statistics>.

Finally, the information relating to how many applications were made and successful in England, Scotland and Wales in the last five years is not readily available and has not previously been published as official statistics.”

Disability benefits

Click on link for source

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Written question on whether the Government has made an assessment of the potential merits of replacing work capability assessments with separate assessments for employment support</u></p> | <p>Stephen Lloyd MP (Liberal Democrats, Eastbourne) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of replacing the work capability assessment with separate assessments for employment support and for financial support; and if he will make a statement.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Penny Mordaunt MP’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“We consulted on this model of reform for the Work Capability Assessment in the Improving Lives Green Paper. We received around 6,000 consultation responses, supported by 166 accessible events across the country. Our officials have been working hard since the Green Paper consultation to analyse that fantastic response. We are working towards an autumn publication, which will provide an update on the recent work we’ve been doing, respond to the consultation, and set out our next steps.”</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on what assessment has been made of the psychological effect that the personal independence payments process is having on claimants</u></p> | <p>Stephen Kinnock MP (Labour, Aberavon) has asked <i>“the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the psychological effect that the personal independence payment assessment process is having on applicants.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Penny Mordaunt MP’s response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>“We have consulted and engaged widely, and continue to do so, with disabled people, carers and representative organisations to ensure the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessment process works smoothly and efficiently for all claimants, regardless of their condition or disability. The PIP assessment allows us to accurately and consistently assess individuals’ needs, ensuring that support is targeted at those disabled people who require the most assistance to lead independent lives.</i></p> <p><i>We do recognise that attending a face-to-face assessment can be a stressful experience for some people, which is why we do not carry out such consultations where there is enough existing evidence to carry out a paper-based assessment. Furthermore, where a face-to-face consultation is required, we encourage claimants to bring another person with them to consultations where they would find this helpful to, for example, reassure them or to help them during the consultation. The person chosen is at the discretion of the claimant and might be, but is not limited to, a parent, family member, friend, carer, or advocate.</i></p> <p><i>Where a face-to-face consultation is required, the Health Professional (HP) carrying it out will be a medically qualified professional and as such, will have the appropriate skills to enable them to deal with people in a supportive and sensitive way. HPs ensure that assessments are relaxed and unhurried, allowing the claimant time and encouraging them to explain in their own words how their</i></p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p><i>health condition or disability impacts their ability to carry out the PIP activities. It is important that the consultation feels like a genuine two way conversation.</i></p> <p><i>In 2016 DWP commissioned Ipsos MORI to conduct independent research with PIP claimants covering all aspects of the PIP journey, from initial claim, the assessment process through to mandatory reconsideration and appeal. The first phase of the research, examining the initial claims process, was published in the Department's research report series in March. Subsequent findings from stages two and three of the research, including findings on assessments, will be published in late 2017/early 2018 (date to be confirmed)."</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on whether the Government has plans to review the personal independence payments assessment criteria</u></p> | <p>Stephen Kinnock MP (Labour, Abervon) has asked <i>"the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has any plans to review the personal independence payments assessment criteria."</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Penny Mordaunt MP's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> <p><i>"There are no current plans to review the Personal Independence Payment assessment criteria."</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on how many and what proportion of claimants have additional support needs and employment and training needs</u></p> | <p>Lesley Laird MP (Labour, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath) has asked <i>"the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of claimants have additional (a) support needs and (b) employment or training needs."</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Work and Pensions, Damian Hinds MP's response (Conservatives, East Hampshire):</p> <p><i>"This specific information is not available.</i></p> <p><i>However as of September 2017 there were 804,000 unemployment related claimants (Claimant Count, ONS); 53,700 Universal Credit (UC) claimants with no work requirements; 10,000 UC claimants with planning for work conditionality and 12,900 UC claimants preparing for work (DWP statistics). In addition as of February 2017 there were 2.4 million incapacity related claimants (Employment and Support Allowance and Incapacity Benefit); 610,000 Income Support claimants and 810,000 Carer's Allowance claimants receiving payment (DWP statistics).</i></p> <p><i>[Sources:</i></p> <p><i>https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk;</i></p> <p><i>https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-statistical-summaries-2017</i></p> <p><i>https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/outofwork/benefits/datasets/claimantcountcla01]"</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on the number of people who had their personal independence payment awards reduced or removed, by constituency</u></p> | <p>Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rebecca Long Bailey MP (Labour, Salford and Eccles) has asked <i>"the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people had personal independence payment awards reduced or removed as a result of reassessment in (a) 2016-17 and (b) 2017 to date in each parliamentary constituency in the UK."</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Penny Mordaunt MP's response (Conservatives, Portsmouth North):</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p><i>“The attached table shows the numbers of DLA to PIP Reassessments cleared in 2016/17 (April 6th to October 31st 2016 - the last date for which data is available). Data is published annually with the next update due in December 2017 and this will include data to October 31st 2017.</i></p> <p><i>For each individual who has a PIP reassessment outcome their PIP entitlement has been compared to their DLA entitlement at the time of their PIP reassessment registration.</i></p> <p><i>'Award Increased' means the Department have made a decision to award PIP and the total monetary value of the PIP award (Daily Living plus Mobility component) is higher than the total monetary value of the DLA award (Care component plus Mobility component).</i></p> <p><i>'Award Unchanged' means the Department have made a decision to award PIP and the total monetary value of the PIP award (Daily Living plus Mobility component) is the same as the total monetary value of the DLA award (Care component plus Mobility component).</i></p> <p><i>'Award Decreased' means the Department have made a decision to award PIP and the total monetary value of the PIP award (Daily Living plus Mobility component) is less than the total monetary value of the DLA award (Care component plus Mobility component).</i></p> <p><i>'Disallowed post-referral to the assessment providers (AP)' includes claims that have been disallowed following the assessment due to the claimant not scoring enough points at the assessment to be awarded the benefit, or the claimant failing to attend the assessment without good reason.</i></p> <p><i>'Disallowed pre-referral to the assessment providers (AP)' includes claims that have been disallowed due to failure of basic eligibility criteria or non-return of the Part 2 form within the time limit and have not been marked as requiring additional support.</i></p> <p><i>'Withdrawn' includes all claims that have been withdrawn by the claimant prior to a decision being made. This can take place at any point in the claimant journey following registration of a claim.</i></p> <p><u>Number of PIP to DLA Reassessments in 2016/17</u>(Word Document, 96.3 KB)”</p> |
|--|---|

Equalities

Click on link for source

| | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Written question on when subtitles will be available on the BBC Parliament television channel</u></p> | <p>Mike Hill MP (Labour, Hartlepool) has asked “the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will ensure that subtitles are always available on the BBC Parliament television channel.”</p> <p>Minister of State for Digital Policy, Matt Hancock MP’s response (Conservatives, West Suffolk):</p> |
|---|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p><i>“This is an operational matter for the BBC. However, the BBC has made a commitment to provide subtitles for 100% of scheduled live House of Commons coverage by 2019 and has met this target since September 2016. Subtitles are also provided for a proportion of the House of Lords coverage and of Select Committees.”</i></p> |
| <p><u>Written question on which Government Department and Minister is responsible for the promotion and recognition of British Sign Language</u></p> | <p>Chair of the APPG on Deafness, Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Labour, Poplar and Limehouse) has asked <i>“the Minister for the Cabinet Office, which Government (a) department and (b) Minister is responsible for the promotion and recognition of British Sign Language.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Cabinet Office, Caroline Nokes MP’s response (Conservatives, Romsey and Southampton North) :</p> <p><i>“Under the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty, all Government departments have a responsibility to create inclusive communications. This does not mean promoting BSL as an activity in itself but it does mean identifying and meeting the communication needs of the audiences we are targeting (for example, where formats could include Braille, BSL, easy read etc).”</i></p> |

Parliamentary terms

Early Day Motion (EDM)

Early Day Motions are formal motions for debate submitted by MPs in the House of Commons. There is usually no time available to actually debate an EDM, but they are useful for drawing attention to specific events or campaigns and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. MPs register their support by signing individual motions.

Oral Parliamentary Question (OPQ) and Written Parliamentary Question (WPQ)

Parliamentary Questions are used by both MPs and Peers to question Ministers in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They are used to seek information, and Ministers are obliged to explain and defend the work, policy, decisions and actions of their departments, oral questions can also be used to make political points. Parliamentary questions are a vital tool in holding the Government to account. The Prime Minister answers oral questions from the House of Commons every Wednesday at midday.

Debates

Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords hold debates in which Members discuss government policy, proposed new laws and current issues. All debates are recorded in a publication called 'Hansard' which is available online or in print.

All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal groups composed of politicians from all political parties. They provide an opportunity for cross-party discussion and co-operation on particular issues. All-party groups sometimes act as useful pressure groups for specific causes helping to keep the Government, the opposition and MPs informed of parliamentary and outside opinion.

Select Committees

House of Commons Select Committees exist to scrutinise the work of government departments. Most committees have about 11 members and reflect the relative size of each party in the Commons. They conduct enquiries on a specific issue, and gather evidence from expert witnesses. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The Government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

Written ministerial statements

Government ministers can make written statements to announce:

- The publication of reports by government agencies
- Findings of reviews and inquiries and the government's response
- Financial and statistical information
- Procedure and policy initiatives of government departments

Private Members' Bills

Private Members' Bills allow backbench MPs or Peers to introduce their own legislation. There are three types of Private Members' Bills introduced into the House of Commons:

- **Ballot Bills:** A ballot is held at the beginning of each parliamentary year the 20 MPs whose names come out top are allowed to introduce legislation on a subject of their choice.
- **Ten Minute Rule Bills:** The sponsoring MP is given a slot in which they may make a speech lasting up to 10 minutes in support of his or her bill
- **Presentation Bill:** a Member is not able to speak in support of it and it stands almost no chance of becoming law