



Department
for Work &
Pensions

THE RT HON. SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP
Minister for Social Security and Disability
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Your ref/ Eich cyf: JH/PO/202/25

22 May 2025

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

By email/Drwy e-bost: PSCSSJTCW@gov.wales

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28 April 2025 about the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee report, '**Anything's Achievable with the Rights Support: Tackling the Disability Employment Gap**'. The UK Government has ambitious plans around employment, including disability employment, set out in the Get Britain Working White Paper, published on 26 November. A fully inclusive labour market that enables disabled people and people with health conditions to have access to the same opportunities as everyone else to the benefits of work is crucial to meeting our ambition for an 80% employment rate. As part of the Get Britain Working Plan, more disabled people and those with health conditions will be supported to enter and stay in work.

Disability Confident

I was interested in the report's recommendations about strengthening the Disability Confident scheme. In my letter dated 4 December 2024 to the Chair of the Committee, I highlighted the scheme's importance in promoting disability-inclusive workplaces and enabling more disabled people to access work-related opportunities. I also recognised there are opportunities to strengthen the scheme and have been discussing these ideas with stakeholders.

We are working on making the Disability Confident Scheme more robust and will be engaging stakeholders to understand the most effective way to progress this really important priority. As noted in your correspondence, my officials have already contacted Welsh Government colleagues to include them in this work. We appreciate the efforts of Welsh Government officials and the Disabled People's Employment Champions in increasing the number of Disability Confident Leaders and promoting the scheme.

Access to Work

As you know, the UK Government recently launched a public consultation through the *Pathways to Work* Green Paper which sets out our ambition to improve employment

support for disabled people and those with health conditions. I would welcome the Welsh Government's views as part of this consultation process.

We are committed to reforming the Access to Work scheme, putting the views and voices of disabled people at the heart of all that we do, so we will consult on these proposals with disabled people and representative organisations.

Collaboration with the Welsh Government

I welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to identifying and removing barriers that prevent disabled people from participating in the workforce, remaining in work, and progressing their careers, which the UK Government shares. I look forward to continuing to work closely with you on this important agenda.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Timms". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

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