



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 2024

Dear Government,

RE: SCOPE'S 'AN EQUAL FUTURE' CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your support for Scope's recent manifesto. I have read your comments with interest.

I note the points raised in the manifesto, 'An Equal Future', and would like to assure you that the Government is committed to ensuring that disability is not an obstacle to living a full, independent life, where people can reach their full potential.

In recognition of the exceptional circumstances of the last two years, the Government has taken decisive action to provide timely financial relief to those with disabilities and health conditions. On the 6th April 2024, disability benefits - including Personal Independence Payment, Disability Living Allowance, and Employment and Support Allowance - were increased by 6.7 percent, reflecting inflation.

Additionally, last year, more than 6.4 million individuals received a £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment. This was in addition to three payments totalling £900 for those on means-tested benefits, and the extension of the Household Support Fund, which has provided 26 million awards for vulnerable families, administered through local authorities on a discretionary basis.

Regarding employment, between Q1 2017 and Q1 2022, the number of disabled people in the UK in work increased by 1.3 million. This means that the goal to see a million more disabled people in employment between 2017 and 2027 has been met and was exceeded five years ahead of schedule.

Clearly, however, there is more still to do, and the Government is taking action to reduce the disability employment gap even further. For example, the ambitious 'Back to Work Plan' sets out steps that will support those with disabilities and long-term health conditions to enter into employment, as will the important structural reform announced during my time as the Minister for Disabled People, Health & Work, where I was proud to play my part in broadening opportunity and unlocking potential, recognising that so many disabled people say that they would like to try work, and would do so with the right support. Our comprehensive package of measures we are taking forward as a Government seek to do just that and I was proud to engage extensively with Scope in shaping much of it.

Finally, to improve the experiences of disabled people in daily life, the 'National Disability Strategy' and the 'Disability Action Plan' will help to ensure that this country is the most accessible and, importantly, equal place to live anywhere in the world.



Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'TP' with a flourish underneath.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**