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Ms Claire Lauren Fisher  
Independent Living Centre,  
c/o Barnet & Southgate College,  
7 Bristol Avenue,  
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Our ref: MC2025/67406

4 August 2025

Dear Ms Fisher,

As you may know, your letter of 30 June to the Prime Minister has been passed to this Department for a response. You wrote about the proposed disability benefit reforms, and I am replying as the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability and apologise for the delay in responding.

At the heart of our reforms is a mission to give people a better life, by protecting people who need it and helping people into work where they can, particularly disabled people who deserve equal choices and chances.

Our reforms intend, first and foremost, to protect the most vulnerable. We are ensuring they are protected now, by maintaining their incomes and investing in the NHS and social care, and protected in the future, by putting our social security system onto a sustainable footing to enable it to endure for the long term.

This Government values the input of disabled people and people with health conditions, in addition to the representative organisations and people that support them. That is why we brought forward a Green Paper and opened a public consultation. The consultation welcomed all views and received over 45,000 responses before it closed on the 30 June 2025. We offered a full suite of accessible formats to facilitate input and held a programme of 18 public consultation events across the UK and virtually to hear from people directly.

We continue to facilitate ways to involve disabled people and stakeholders in our reforms.

This includes the Collaboration Committees we launched on the 2 July, which bring together groups of disabled people and other experts to collaborate and provide discussion, challenge, and recommendations on specific work areas. I am also leading a wider review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) - and at the heart of this will be coproduction with disabled people, the organisations that represent them, and MPs, to ensure that a wide range of views and voices are heard. We have made clear that there will now be no changes to the PIP eligibility conditions until that review has concluded, by the Autumn of next year. The Disability Advisory Panel announced in the Get Britain Working White Paper, will further ensure perspectives of disabled people inform our work.

We are committed to engaging disabled people meaningfully in our reforms to social security and the PIP review underlines this commitment. This Government strongly values the voices and interests of disabled people - and that is why there is a lead Minister for Disability in every government department, to represent the interests of disabled people and champion disability inclusion and accessibility. As we drive forward progress on the Government's manifesto commitments and missions, we will continue to champion the rights and opportunities of disabled people and people with long-term health conditions.

We are bringing forward urgent reforms in the Universal Credit Bill, which rebalances the health element and standard allowance, to tackle perverse incentives that drive people into dependency, whilst protecting existing claimants and those with the most severe, lifelong conditions and at the end of life.

We continue to develop other proposals announced in the Green Paper, including our major investment in employment support for sick and disabled people and the right to try guarantee to give people with health conditions and disabilities the security to try work.

At the heart of our reforms are the principles that those who can work should work; that if you need help into work the Government should support you; and that those who can never work should be supported to live with dignity. The changes we are making are designed to protect the most vulnerable, while supporting those who can work to do so - and to give disabled people the equal choices and chances to work that they are entitled to.

Access to Work has not been substantially changed since its introduction in 1994. There is a strong case for updating the role it plays in making work accessible for disabled people.

In the Pathways to Work Green Paper, we consulted on the future of the Access to Work scheme. We also considered the role of employers in creating accessible and inclusive workplaces as well as how we can shape the market for aids, appliances and assistive technology, to reduce their cost and spread their adoption.

We are considering responses to the consultation and will set out our plans in due course. The Green Paper launched a consultation that will inform the chosen future direction of Access to Work. Once this is established, we will consider timelines and work closely with stakeholders to ensure an appropriate transition.

With all best wishes,

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

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