



ODInsight

News from Office for Disability Issues

Working across government to deliver equality for disabled people

Issue 005 - August 2008



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What's happening

- Equality 2025's regional meetings visit Cornwall, the West Midlands, London, Scotland and Wales over the next few months. Go along and make your voice heard. Visit the Equality 2025 website for [information on regional meetings](#).

New report provides a unique snapshot of disability in Britain



Key point

ODI research looks into the lives of disabled people

'Experiences and Expectations of Disabled People', a new study commissioned by the Office for Disability Issues (ODI), provides the most comprehensive picture of disabled people's experiences in six years.

The research provides a unique snapshot of the lives of nearly

2,000 disabled people and their impressions of living in Britain.

Results of the research will be used to help shape future ODI work as it aims to achieve the Government's vision of equality for disabled people by 2025.

[Read the research report and find out more](#)

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→ Learn more about the Government's User-Led Organisation (ULO) initiative in the [Department of Health's first ULO Action and Learning Newsletter](#).

→ Check out new employment guides from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) aimed at people with a learning disability:

- Your rights at work: A guide for people with a learning disability and their supporters
- Easy Read version of Your rights at work.

Download these publications from the [EHRC website](#)

→ The Community Channel's volunteering and disability campaign kicks off in September. [Find out more by emailing The Community Channel](#)

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Making independent living a reality



Key point

Responses received on Independent Living Consultation

The ODI's Independent Living Consultation events were a great success – thank you to everyone who took part.

The ideas will assist us in shaping effective implementation and monitoring of the Independent Living Strategy, ensuring that the Government's commitments become a reality. You can [see the responses we received](#)

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Welfare reform plans outlined



Key point

Government publishes Welfare Reform Green Paper

The Welfare Reform Green Paper was launched on 21 July by the Department of Work and Pensions and sets out plans to help people into work.

Equality 2025 recently met with James Purnell, the Secretary of State, to discuss welfare reform and the potential impact upon disabled people. The Group has submitted its thoughts to Government. For more information on the Welfare Reform Green Paper and to have your say visit the [ODI website](#)

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Championing participation for all at 2012 Paralympics



Key point

Government takes a stand for Paralympic athletes

International Paralympic Committee to find a solution before the London 2012 games.

With the Beijing Paralympic Games nearly upon us, the ODI is turning its thoughts to 2012.

Currently, athletes with a learning disability are banned from participating in the Paralympics. The ODI, Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Children, Schools and Families are working closely with the International Federation for Sport for People with an Intellectual Disability and the

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Making Europe a fairer place



Key point

European Commission publishes proposals for a new anti-discrimination Directive

The ODI is working closely with the Government Equalities Office on the European Commission's proposal for new anti-discrimination legislation.

The Directive would prohibit discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, sexual orientation and religion or belief in the provision of goods and services.

Although the UK already has legislation in many of the areas covered by the draft Directive, there are a number of Member States that don't. Evidence suggests that many groups within the EU are still suffering discrimination.

The UK Government welcomes the opportunity to

consider the Commission's proposal. A consultation exercise will be undertaken in late summer.

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Living in a democratic Britain – have your say



Governance of Britain

Key point

'Governance of Britain' seeks your views for a renewed democracy

The Government is committed to reinvigorating democracy and building a new relationship between Government and citizens. A healthy democracy relies on all sorts of people getting involved in how our country is run.

To find out how you can take part in discussions online or in your local area, [email Governance of Justice](#) or [visit the website](#)

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In the driving seat



Key point

Highways Agency drives forward safety initiative for disabled drivers

The Highways Agency is producing road safety guidance for disabled drivers and needs your help.

From finding out what you do in a breakdown to carrying out car maintenance checks, the Highways Agency wants to hear your thoughts to ensure your journeys are smoother and safer

in the future.

To share your views simply [complete this survey](#)

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