How easy is it to access:
● homes
● buildings
● outside spaces?

Please let us know what you think by Wednesday 12th October 2016

Access means something that is easy for disabled people to get into and use. Such as ramps to get into a building.

Outside spaces means places like parks, streets and open areas.

This is an easy read version of The Disability and the built environment inquiry launched in September 2016 by the Women and Equalities Committee at the Houses of Parliament.
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Who are we?

We are the Women and Equalities Committee at the House of Commons in Parliament.

Parliament has groups or committees to look at things the Government is doing.

They use what they find out to check if things are working well or help change things or make them better.

Sometimes a Committee will do an inquiry to find out how things are working in a specific area.
The Women and Equalities Committee finds out if people are being treated fairly and equally because of:

1. how old they are
2. disability
3. changed sex
4. marriage or civil partnership
5. having a baby

6. race

7. religion or belief

8. sex

9. gay, lesbian or bisexual people.
What is this inquiry about?

We want to find out how easy to access places are.

This is important for many people:

- people with physical disabilities
- older people who may not be able to walk well
- people with mental health problems.
We want to find out:

- how much what these people need is thought about when places are being planned
- what we can do to make everywhere easy for everyone to access.

We are not looking at public transport, because another Committee at the Houses of Parliament has recently done this and told the Government what needs to be done to make transport better for disabled people.
Tell us what you think

We want you to tell us what you think about any of the things below.

If you don’t know the answer for any question please just go onto the next one.

Government plans for easy to access places

- are there enough easy to access places? This includes places like:
  - homes
  - shops
- banks

- pubs

- offices

- how good are Government plans for easy to access homes?

- how good are the rules for building easy to access homes?
● how can we have more easy to access homes for independent living?

● there are some basic rules on easy to access homes that builders must keep. Are there other things that could make builders build even better easy to access home?

How good are laws and rules for easy to access buildings?

● how good is the law we have now for easy to access buildings? Can we make it better?

● does everyone keep to this law? If not what can we do to make sure people keep this law?
we have rules now for making places easy to access. Do they make it easy for everyone to access, as well as people who use wheelchairs? We are thinking about:

— people with dementia. Dementia is a serious illness that affects the memory and brain and makes people confused

— people with learning disabilities

— people with mental health problems
— older people.

● what can we do so that places are easy to access for them?

● the law says that places must make fair changes so that there is easy access. How useful is this law?

Planning and looking after outside spaces

When we plan outside spaces do we think about what everyone needs? Outside spaces such as:

● streets
- big roads
- parks
- open areas
- are public toilets good enough for everyone?

- some streets are called shared spaces. This is when there are no kerbs, fences or crossings. People, cars and bicycles all use the same space in the street. Do shared spaces make life difficult for disabled people? What can we do to make shared spaces better?
we want to make towns more easy to access for people of all ages. How can all organisations and groups including the NHS work together to make this happen?

People who plan and draw buildings and open spaces

Some people have jobs to draw and plan new buildings and open spaces. Some people make old buildings useful for modern life.

- do these people think enough about making everywhere easy to access?

- what can these people do to make everywhere easy to access?
● is the training on making everywhere easy to access good enough? What else do we need to put in the training?

There are new ways to plan and build.

● is there some way you can think of to make sure they really include making places easy to access for everyone?

Involving local people in planning

● how easy is it for local people to help with making decisions about new buildings and spaces? What stops people being involved?
can local councils use the rules they already have to make everywhere easier to access?
Telling us what you think

We want you to tell us on the internet. This page lets you tell us Disability and the built environment inquiry page: http://tinyurl.com/telluswhat (This page is not in easy read).

We like what you tell us to be done in a certain way. This page tells you how. Read the Guidance on giving evidence to a Select Committee of the House of Commons: http://tinyurl.com/howtocommittee

Some people find it difficult to use the internet. Then you need to contact us. You can do this by:

Writing to us at:
Women and Equalities Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA
1. We need people to write down what they think in less than 6 sides.

If you are going to go over 6 sides please have one page at the front that gives short details of the rest.

2. If you use Word and can use numbers, please add a number to each paragraph, like these but from the beginning to the end (don’t worry if you can’t do this)
3. Please put the date and your name on it. Add the name of your group if you are writing for a group.

4. It is best if we can have it sent over the internet.

5. If you don't use Word or the internet you can still send us what you think in the post.
Credits

This paper has been designed and produced for the Women and Equalities Committee at the Houses of Parliament by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Ref ISL149 16. September 2016.

www.inspiredservices.org.uk

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