



House of Commons
Work and Pensions Committee



Access to Work

Our report on how well the programme is doing



This is an EasyRead version of:
Work and Pensions Committee report
'Improving Access to Work for Disabled People'.
HC 481. 19th December 2014.

Not to be published before 19th December 2014

About this report



This is the short version of a report from a House of Commons **committee**.



Committees are groups that look at things the government is doing. They use what they find out to change things or make them better.



We have been finding out about help for people with a disability who work or want to work.



We asked people about **Access to Work** and wrote this report about what we found out.



Access to Work is the programme to help people with a disability get and stay in work.



Department
for Work &
Pensions

It is run by part of the government called the **Department for Work and Pensions**.



Access to Work can help people pay for:

- special equipment



- travel to work



- support workers.



Department
for Work &
Pensions



The Department for Work and Pensions
also looked at Access to Work.



We hope our report will help them change
things for the better.

Support to get or keep a job



1. Supporting more people

It can be harder to work if you have a disability than it is for other people.



Many disabled people could not work without support from Access to Work.



But some people do not know about it or get the support they need.



The programme must support more people without taking help away from people who need lots of support.



We think the Department for Work and Pensions should ask the Government for more money for Access to Work.



Then they can tell more people about it and help them get or keep a job.



2. Remploy factories



Remploy ran factories where only disabled people could work.



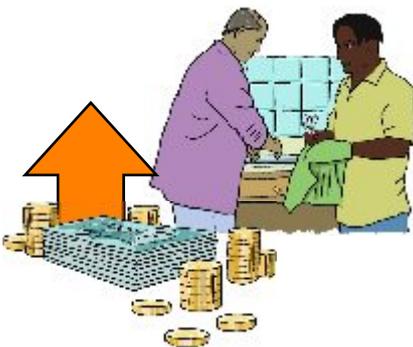
Some people thought it was good to have somewhere safe to work.



Others said disabled people should have support to work anywhere they choose.



When the government closed these factories it said it would use the money in different ways to support disabled people to work.



The Government needs to show if they are now spending more money on other special support for disabled people.



3. Disabilities you cannot see

Many people think Access to Work is just for equipment or transport for people with physical disabilities.



This means people with disabilities you cannot see might not ask to be on the programme.



This includes people with:

- mental health problems



- autism



- learning disabilities or difficulties.



The government should explain things more clearly.



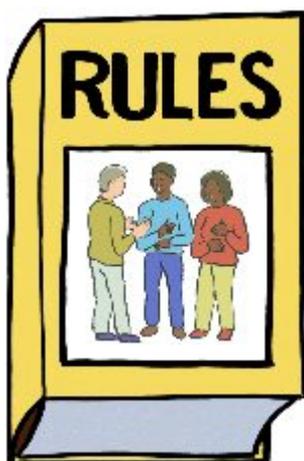
They must make sure people with mental health problems can get the right support.



4. Sign language support

The government changed the rules about:

- support workers



- paying British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters.



This makes things difficult for people who use BSL.



Department
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Pensions



The Department for Work and Pensions must work with deaf people and BSL signers to understand the support they need.

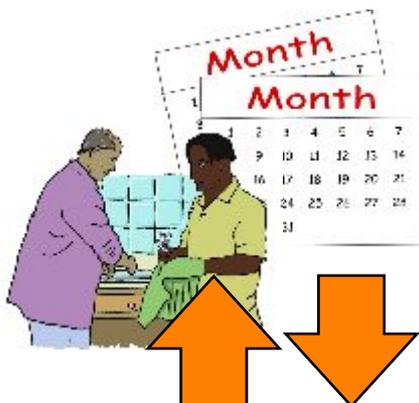
5. People who run their own business



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for Work &
Pensions



Staff at the Department for Work and Pensions must understand the type of support people need to run their own business.



The support they need might change if they do more or less work each week or month.



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Making the programme work better

1. Running the programme

The Department for Work and Pensions could manage Access to Work better by:



- using computers instead of old fashioned paper forms



- making it easier for people to telephone and ask for information



- giving information to people who telephone in the way that is right for them and at a time that works for them.



2. Showing how decisions are made

The Department for Work and Pensions must show how it decides who gets help from Access to Work.



They must tell you how to complain if you are not happy with a decision.

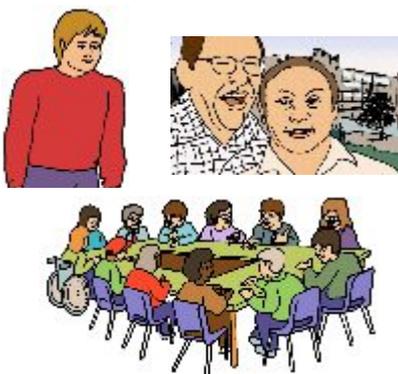


They must tell you who to talk to if you are not happy with the way they deal with your complaint.



3. Understanding different disabilities

Staff who work for the Department for Work and Pensions need better training about disability.



They need special teams to support people with a learning disability and people with autism.



People need information about Access to Work in different ways, including BSL and EasyRead.



There should be a video service for deaf people who want to talk to the Department.



The Department for Work and Pensions must talk to people who use Access to Work before they change things.

This will help them understand what people need.



They must make sure changes do not make things difficult for disabled people who want to work.



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