

Official



**Department  
for Work &  
Pensions**

Minister for Disabled People, Health and  
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C/O David Isaac  
Chair, EHRC  
Fleetbank House, 2-6 Salisbury Square  
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19 January 2017

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 1 December 2016 and summary report, which set out your response to the recent UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) inquiry and the Government's response. I have shared your report with the relevant officials in my department to inform their preparations for the upcoming UN CRPD periodic examination.

I note the concerns that you highlight. However I stand by my belief that the conclusions of grave and systematic violations are completely wide of the mark, and that the policies and practices in the UK do fulfil the obligations set out in the Convention. I can, though, reaffirm this Government's commitment to improving the lives of disabled people. The manifesto commitment to halve the Disability Employment gap is just one way in which this Government is determined to promote and support disabled people and their rights.

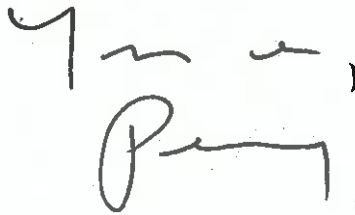
Since becoming Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work I have taken forward a number of initiatives to promote the rights of disabled people and remove barriers, including:

- the Improving Lives Green Paper to drive innovative approaches to improve work and health outcomes for disabled people,
- a review, conducted by Paul Farmer and Lord Stevenson, into how best to support employees with mental health conditions to thrive in the workplace,
- launching the new Disability Confident to promote good practice amongst employers,
- promoting the 'purple pound' of £249 billion to encourage businesses to better cater for disabled customers, and
- enrolling business people to champion accessibility of products and services for disabled people.

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You mention the upcoming UN CRPD periodic examination. I am pleased that officials in the Office for Disability Issues are engaging with the Equalities and Human Rights Commission in the lead up to this. We take this process seriously and we will shortly begin engaging with stakeholders as part of our preparations. We look forward to considering concerns and good practice highlighted through this process, and being able to presenting a full picture of how the UK is implementing the UN CRPD.

I hope we can continue to work together to ensure that the UN CRPD periodic examination process is constructive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Mordaunt', with a stylized 'P' and a long horizontal stroke.

**Penny Mordaunt MP**  
Minister for Disabled People, Health & Work