



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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REFERENCE: CRPD/2025/JA/ro

The Secretary-General (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, present its compliment to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations, and wishes to refer to the below request of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Request pursuant to article 36, paragraph 1, of the Convention.

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of article 36 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which allows the Committee to request further information from States Parties relevant to the implementation of the Convention, the Committee respectfully requests information about the Universal Credit and Personal Independent Payment Bill and associated proposals in the Green Paper “*Pathways to Work*”.

In particular, the Committee requests clarification on the following :

1. The extent to which an impact assessment has been carried out on the consequences of budget cuts introduced by the Bill on disability benefits.
2. The extent to which the measures envisaged by Bill will impact, in particular, young persons, new claimants of disability benefits, women with disabilities, persons with disabilities with high level of supports, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and persons wit disabilities which require access to mental health care and support.
3. The changes introduced by the Bill to the eligibility criteria of Personal Independent Payment, including changes to assessment thresholds and conditionality and sanctions for benefit recipients.
4. The limitations to the Universal Credit Health elements envisaged by the Bill.
5. Any measures to address the foreseeable risk of increasing poverty rates amongst persons with disabilities if cuts are approved.
6. The consultation to the Government Green Paper ‘*Pathways to Work*’, released on 18 March 2025, only to 10 out of the 22 policy changes proposed.
7. The extent to which persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including deaf persons and their representative organizations have been closely consulted and actively involved in the drafting of the Bill and the parliamentary process for the consideration of the Bill.
8. Limited scrutiny of the Bill by the House of Lords as the former has been considered by the Government as a “*Money Bill*”.
9. Public statements by politicians and authorities portraying persons with disabilities as making profit of social benefits, making false statements to get social and disability benefits or being a burden to society.

10. The extent to which other intended Bills, such as PAFER, would allow the Department of Work and Pensions to monitor the bank accounts of universal credit recipients with algorithms scanning for fraud.

Previous Concluding observations and recommendations

The Committee recalls its 2017 Concluding Observations (CRPD/C/GBR/CO/1), its 2016 Inquiry Report under Article 6 of the Optional Protocol (CRPD/C/15/4), which found grave and systematic violations of the human rights of persons with disabilities¹, as well as its 2024 follow up report to the inquiry (CRPD/C/GBR/RFIR/1).

Key recommendations addressed to the State party include:

(a) In the 2017 Concluding Observations

- Paragraph 59 (b): “Carry out a cumulative impact assessment, based on disaggregated data, of the recent and forthcoming reforms of the social protection system for persons with disabilities, and in close collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities define, implement and monitor measures to tackle retrogression in their standard of living”.

(b) In the 2016 Inquiry report (CRPD/C/15/4):

- Paragraph 114 (b) “Ensure that any intended measure of the welfare reform is rights-based, upholds the human rights model of disability and does not disproportionately and/or adversely affect the rights of persons with disabilities to independent living, to an adequate standard of living and to employment. To prevent adverse consequences, the State party should carry out human rights-based cumulative impact assessments of the whole range of intended measures that would have an impact on the rights of persons with disabilities”;
- Paragraph 114 (g) “Actively consult and engage with persons with disabilities through their representative organizations and give due consideration to their views in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of any legislation, policy or programme related to the rights addressed in the present report”.
- Paragraph 114 (i):”Ensure that, in the implementation of legislation, policies and programmes, special attention is paid to persons with disabilities living on a low income or in poverty and to persons with disabilities at higher risk of exclusion, such as persons with intellectual, psychosocial or multiple disabilities and women, children and older persons with disabilities”.

(c) In the 2024 Follow-report to the inquiry (CRPD/C/GBR/RFIR/1)

- Paragraph 90 (a): “To take all the legislative and administrative measures necessary to ensure a nationally consistent framework for implementing and monitoring obligations under the Convention across the State party, in order to avoid regression in relation to the standards and principles enshrined in the Convention, and to establish a comprehensive process for close consultation with and active involvement of persons with disabilities...”.
- In paragraph 88 the Committee indicated that: “The Committee concludes that no significant progress has been made in the State party concerning the situation of persons with disabilities addressed in the inquiry proceedings. The Committee notes

that while some measures have been taken to address its recommendations issued pursuant to article 6 of the Optional Protocol, there are also signs of regression in relation to the standards and principles enshrined in the Convention, in contravention of article 4 (2) of the Convention”.

Information available regarding the proposed Bill

The Committee has received credible information indicating that if approved, the Universal Credit and Personal Independent Payment Bill will deepen the signs of regression that the Committee indicated in its 2024 Report on the follow-up to the inquiry.

Timeframe and further steps.

The Committee would appreciate receiving information to the above-referred questions by 11 August 2025, in Word format. The Committee will examine the responses and all credible information during its thirty-third session, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 11 to 26 August 2025.

For any additional information, please kindly contact the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Jorge Araya, at jorge.araya@un.org

The Secretary-General (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) reiterates to the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the assurances of his highest consideration.



7 July 2025