Westminster Employment Forum policy conference:
Priorities for supporting people with disabilities in the workplace
Timing: Morning, Monday, 11th May 2026
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Policy priorities for supporting people with disabilities in the workplace**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **Assessing the impact of legislative developments on stakeholder responsibilities towards workers with disabilities**
impact of new employer duties under the Employment Rights Act 2025 | implications of reform to Statutory Sick Pay | changes to flexible working arrangements and Right to Request | reformed protections against unfair dismissal | considerations and options for future legislation | implications for the use of health data and data sharing arrangements | transparency between employers and employees | assessing options for disability pay gap reporting and employer action plans | costs, administration, and operational capacity | tailoring support for SMEs | approaches to enforcement | role and remit of the Equal Pay Regulatory and Enforcement Unit | priorities for secondary legislation and consultations
Angela Matthews, Director, Public Policy and Research, Business Disability Forum
Senior representative, employer
Senior representative, trade union
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 **Strategies for closing the disability employment gap - implementing reasonable adjustments, senior leadership support and effective dispute prevention**
Julie Dennis, Head, Inclusive Workplace Strategy and Policy, ACAS
Questions and comments from the floor

10.40 **Considerations and options for possible future welfare system reform - access to funding, eligibility clauses, and assessment processes**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 Break

11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.25 **Collaborative approaches to supporting people with disabilities into sustainable employment opportunities**
Senior representative, combined authority
Questions and comments from the floor

11.45 **Assessing effective practice in employment support and initial findings from the Vanguard scheme**
Senior representative, employer

11.55 **Strategies for strengthening workforce participation, retention, and progression - creating inclusive workplaces, tackling structural barriers, and expanding access to employment support**
improving workplace accessibility and implementing reasonable adjustments | the role of technology in supporting workplace health | implications of welfare system reform on employee productivity | priorities for recruitment, retention and progression | the role of Neighbourhood Health Centres in support | implications of reform to Disability Confident scheme | funding strategies and resource allocation | considerations around scheme design and streamlining Access to Work | expansion of Connect to Work scheme | strategies for tackling discrimination and unconscious bias in the workplace | access to networking, mentoring, and sponsorship opportunities | targeted support for young people and those with disabilities not in employment, education or training | strategies for improving practical enforcement rights
Alice Martin, Head, Research, Work Foundation
John Horan, Barrister, Cloisters Solicitors
Senior representative, human resources
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, local authority

12.20 Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 **Tackling the disability employment gap and options for policy moving forward**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Chair, Work and Pensions Committee
Questions and comments from the floor

13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Employment Forum