

[Fill in your details here]

[Date]

Dear [Name of your MP],

**Urgent: Request for Intervention on changes to Access to Work and disability-related benefits (happening now)**

I am writing as a [your role, e.g., academic, researcher, disabled STEM professional] and constituent in receipt of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and/or Access to Work (ATW). The proposed government changes will have a substantial and detrimental impact on the economy by forcing disabled people out of the workplace or into jobs that do not match our skillsets, qualifications and aspirations.

ATW and disability-related benefit changes are removing critical support mechanisms, and this is a false economy.

PIP and/or ATW supports me currently with [examples may include: accessible transport, assistive technology, human support, etc]. If I lose my PIP and/or ATW support, it jeopardises my ability to continue my work [examples of how it will affect you: e.g. travelling to work, working on site, impact on the support worker, etc] and contribute to the economy and society at large.

As my local MP for X, you will be aware of the recent news around the proposed changes in benefits for disabled people. I especially have urgent concerns about:

- 1) PIP being referred to as a work-related benefit when it was designed for daily living.
- 2) Changes to the operational delivery of Access to Work. ATW is critical for enabling disabled people to enter and remain in work and must be the cornerstone of the government policy to Get Britain Working and keep people in work.
- 3) Correcting the perception that disability leaves people less capable. Disability can affect anybody and anytime in their life and this bruising attitude will result in loss of skills and knowledge from the workforce through legitimised disability discrimination, rather than the focus on keeping people working at their best.

These issues have particular impact on sectors like STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine) where disabled people are already significantly underrepresented. I wish to draw your attention to a recent White Paper published by the National Association of Disabled Staff Networks (NADSN), which calls for transformative action to improve inclusion and equity for disabled people in STEM. It proposes both practical and policy changes that will help to promote a diverse workforce in STEM and push the UK to be at the forefront of discovery and innovation in the world. We know that diverse teams drive better science, and that full inclusion of disabled talent is not only a matter of justice, but also of driving innovative solutions.

The underrepresentation and marginalisation of disabled people in STEMM weakens our national capacity to address urgent challenges, from climate change to public health.

The White Paper can be downloaded from the [NADSN STEMM Action Group webpage](#) (scroll down for green buttons to access the full and Easy Read formats of the paper, along with resources from the launch event).

I ask that you:

- Champion the White Paper in Parliament and within relevant Select Committees and APPGs.
- Encourage UKRI, Research England, and other funding bodies to engage with the White Paper's recommendations.
- Support legislative and policy measures that advance accessibility, inclusion, and accountability in research and higher education.
- Support legislative change to recognise intersectionality and the additional challenges that come with having multiple protected characteristics.

As your constituent, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you and hear your views on how the UK can become a global leader in disability-inclusive STEMM, healthcare, and research.

As rates of disability increase, this is an issue that cannot be ignored, but it also needs to be tackled in a more pragmatic way for long-term sustainability.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]