



# ODInsight

News from Office for Disability Issues

**Working across government to deliver equality for disabled people**

Issue 002 - January 2008



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## What's happening

- The ODI's cross-government [Independent Living Strategy](#) will be published soon. It aims to provide disabled people with more choice and control over their lives. A series of consultation events on the strategy are being planned. Please [contact us](#) if you would like more information about these events.

## ODI Annual Report published



### Key point

The ODI Annual Report has been published

Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, launched the ODI's Annual Report on 6 December. The 2007 annual report provides an update on the role of the ODI in leading work to deliver the Government's 2025 vision of equality for disabled people.

The report, '**Working towards disability equality**', was launched at an event held by the Minister to recognise the work of disability organisations.

The then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Peter Hain, and Ivan Lewis, Minister for Care Services also attended the event.

More information on the [2007 ODI Annual Report](#).

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→ Public bodies required to publish a Disability Equality Scheme by December 2006 should have now produced their first annual report. The ODI will be using these reports to compile examples of good practice and positive impact. Please [contact us](#) if you have any examples of the positive impact of the DED.

→ James Purnell has been appointed as the new Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. [Find out more.](#)

→ If you would like to find out about the Human Rights Act [a guide](#) is available from the Ministry of Justice. It is also available in [Easy Read](#).

#### **Congratulations to:**

→ the winner and shortlisted nominees of the [Guardian Public Services Diversity and Equality Award](#), sponsored by the ODI. The award recognised inclusive and accessible public services.

→ the winners and shortlisted nominees of the [Breakthrough UK Independent Living Awards](#), sponsored by the ODI. The awards recognised organisations which helped to make areas of everyday life more accessible to disabled people.

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## Equality 2025 out and about



### Key point

Equality 2025 will be running a series of public engagement events all over the UK

Equality 2025 is holding the first of a series of public engagement events in Plymouth on 31 January 2008. The events will take place across the UK over the next 12 months.

Equality 2025 is a network of disabled people which advises Government on issues affecting disabled people across the UK.

The aim of the events is to hear the views of disabled people from as wide a range of backgrounds and communities as possible. The views will then inform Equality 2025's advice to Government.

More information on future [Equality 2025 events](#).

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## Disability information added to HMRC's Employer CD-ROM



### Key point

Disability and employment information has been added to HMRC's Employer CD-ROM

From February 2008, HM Revenue and Customs's (HMRC) Employer CD-ROM will include information on disability and employment for the first time.

Over 1.6 million CD-ROMs are sent to employers and advisers in February each year. The CD-ROM contains essential information to help employers run their payrolls along with useful information which now includes disability and employment.

The new information has been added as a result of joint working between the ODI and HMRC.

More information on [HMRC's Employer CD-ROM](#).

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## Latest DDA research published



A new report by the ODI which explores trends in awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) since 1996 is due to be published in February 2008.

### Key point

New research shows that there has been progress in improving the rights of disabled people

It reports on:

- how aware people are of the DDA
- people's experience of accessing goods, services, accommodation and travel.

Findings show that good progress has been made in improving awareness of the rights of disabled people and removing barriers although there remains some room for improvement.

The research will be available on the [ODI website](#) shortly.

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## UN Convention on Disability Rights



The ODI held its first meeting with disabled people's organisations on the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on Disability Rights on 6 December.

Attendees were updated on the Convention and what the UK needs to do to officially adopt

### Key point

First meeting held with disabled people's organisations on the adoption of the UN Convention on Disability Rights

(ratify) it. They were asked to consider how best they could work with the ODI and other government departments.

Anne McGuire, Minister for Disabled People, emphasised the Convention's international significance in spreading the

message that disabled people, wherever they live, have the human right to be treated with dignity and respect.

More information on the [UN Convention on Disability Rights](#).

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## New social care reform agreement



A new social care reform agreement, '**Putting People First**', was launched on 10 December.

The agreement brings together central and local government, adult social care and the NHS and other key stakeholders to transform care for older and disabled people.

### Key point

Agreement signed between central and local government to reform social care and support independent living for older and disabled people

Six Cabinet Ministers, including Peter Hain, the then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, are among the key people to sign the agreement.

More information on [Putting People First](#).

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## Employment support for people with an Individual Budget



New employment information is available for people with an Individual Budget.

A booklet '**Is work for me? Information for people with an Individual Budget**' and leaflet '**If I have an Individual Budget, is going to work best for me?**' have been published.

### Key point

New employment information is available for people with an Individual Budget

They include information about supported employment schemes and services available through Jobcentre Plus and participating local authority sites.

The information was produced by the ODI, Jobcentre Plus, disabled people and nine Individual Budget pilot sites.

More [employment information for people with an Individual Budget](#).

Alternatively, call freephone 0800 707 6571 or textphone 0800 055 6023.

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## Directgov Blue Badge parking map improved



Directgov  
Public services all in one place

### Key point

Directgov has improved its Blue Badge parking map

The Directgov Blue Badge parking map is being significantly improved from February 2008.

The Blue Badge parking map provides information on blue badge parking bays. There will be a large increase in the number of locations featured as well as additional information on accessible toilets, train stations, Shopmobility sites and much more.

It will also look better and be easier to use.

More information on the [Blue Badge parking map](#).

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