



ODInsight

News from Office for Disability Issues

Working across government to deliver equality for disabled people

Issue 006 - October 2008



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What's happening

- Need help to ensure your communications are accessible to all? Find out how to involve disabled people using positive representations in your work. If you work for government communications, [book yourself on an ODI Images of Disability workshop](#).
- Find out more about Independent Living from those that are living it. See the four short films ODI has produced on [You Tube](#). Please pass them onto friends and colleagues and help us to spread the Independent Living message far and wide!

Last chance



Key point

Make your views heard on future welfare reform

DWP's consultation on the Green Paper 'No one written off; reforming welfare to reward responsibility' closes on 22 October. But there is still time to make your views heard. If you live in Wales or Scotland, consultation events will be taking place in Cardiff on 6 October and Edinburgh on 9 October.

Want to know what's been decided? You can attend a consultation closing event on 24 October in Newcastle where DWP will share the public's thoughts and views and the future direction of welfare reform.

Find out how to attend the events at the [DWP 'No one written off' pages](#).

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We welcome feedback on this e-newsletter. You can do this by [contacting us](#).

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Have your say



Key point

Book your place at Equality 2025s annual public meeting

Equality 2025 will be holding its [second annual public meeting](#) on 3 November at the International Conference Centre in Birmingham.

If you're disabled or have a long-term health condition please do come along to discuss the issues that matter most to you.

The information you share will help Equality 2025 to advise the Government on disability issues and policies.

Discover more about the work of Equality 2025 by reading the group's first [Annual Report](#).

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New appointment

Office for Disability Issues

Key point

ODI welcomes Stephen Martin as new interim director

A warm welcome to Stephen Martin, who joins the ODI as interim director, following Bruce Calderwood's announcement that he would be stepping down from the role in August. Bruce was instrumental in establishing the nature and role of the ODI as a cross-government agency and will be missed by all his colleagues .

Stephen has a wealth of experience in both the private and public sector, and brings a great deal of experience from previous roles in the DWP. Stephen is looking forward to leading the ODI through the next few months. For more information on our key projects, see our website at <http://www.c-f-1.com/d.aspx?e=MTI3MDMxNDkyNg==&c=3&linkID=914052>

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Living made easy



Key point

ODI publishes guidance for landlords and tenants

The ODI has published five handy factsheets offering advice and information on making communal areas of residential buildings, such as stairways, hallways and gardens, more accessible.

With many disabled people finding it difficult to get alterations made to these parts

of buildings, the factsheets highlight issues that landlords and tenants in England and Wales need to consider when requests for alterations are made. For more information visit the [Common Parts information page](#).

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Family findings



Key point

New research reveals the affects of disability on family formation and break-up

The ODI and DWP have published research which explores the effect that being a disabled adult, or having a disabled child, has on your chances of having a partner, having children and family break-up.

The report, 'Exploring disability and family break up: A review of the evidence', also provides findings on employment and poverty for families with a disabled adult or child.

The research will assist Government to build strategies which better support disabled adults and parents of disabled children. For a full copy of the research report visit the [DWP research pages](#).

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