



# Office for Disability Issues

HM Government

30 June 2009



Dear friend,

Feeling in control of your life is an essential part of being able to work, rest and play. If you feel out of control, your ability to think, act and feel good about yourself, is impossible and your life will be very restricted. For disabled people, being in control of the support we need gives us freedom to make choices and plans for the future.

Disabled people in this country have been fighting for the right to make choices like their non-disabled peers for decades. Like so many civil rights struggles around the world for equal citizenship, it has taken a long journey to get to this point.

The Right to Control is about changing the whole way that the support we need is provided. All my adult life I have been campaigning with disabled people against systems that treat us as dependent - where others decide what is best for us. Instead we want an equal partnership.

If we work together well the Right to Control will create an equal partnership. Disabled people will bring to the table their expertise on how best to meet their own needs. The state will bring the resources that society has decided to make available. Together we will agree the outcomes to be achieved by those resources, and disabled people can choose how to use those resources to meet their needs.

If the right to control is put into practice, it will change forever the relationship between the state and the individual disabled person. It will give us greater freedom to determine our own destiny. Only when we achieve this will we truly have the opportunity to achieve full and equal citizenship.

I look forward to travelling with you on the journey towards a Right to Control.

Best wishes,

**Baroness Jane Campbell**

Chair of the Right to Control Advisory Group