

Dear colleague

I am delighted that one of my first acts as Secretary of State is to introduce 'Making choice and control a reality for disabled people: Consultation on the Right to Control'.

In 2005 the Government made public their commitment to work towards equality for disabled people by 2025.

Since then we have come a long way. We have created the cross-Government Independent Living Strategy: a five year plan which aims to make sure disabled people have the same choice, freedom, dignity and control over their lives as non-disabled people. The cross-sector concordat Putting People First committed to transforming people's experience of local support and services by working across sectors, departments and agendas. We have also piloted individual budgets.

But, as many disabled people know, we still have a long way to go.

I know how important it is to disabled people that they have choice and control over how they live their lives. The right to control has the potential to transform people's lives, but it needs to deliver real benefits for disabled people. For this reason we intend to test the right in a small number of trailblazing local authority areas.

We have listened to and involved disabled people at every stage. Our advisory group, chaired by Baroness Campbell, includes disabled people, service providers and independent living experts alongside other stakeholders. This consultation document is the next step in this process of co-production and asks questions about how we can best structure the trailblazing stage of the right to control.

I look forward to hearing the views of people who will be affected by the right to control. Disabled people, user-led organisations, and service providers all have the essential expertise we need to deliver trailblazers that are workable, accessible, and truly transformational.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions