

Westminster Employment Forum Keynote Seminar: Disability and health in the workplace - improving employment support and closing the disability gap

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 7th December 2016

Venue: Glaziers Hall, 9 Montague Close, London SE1 9DD



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Professor Kim Hoque, Professor of Human Resource Management, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick
- 9.05 - 9.35 **Disability and employment - the challenges for policy**
Dr Lisa Cameron MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Disability
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 9.45 **The disability employment gap - where we are now and options for moving forward**
Philip Connolly, Policy and Development Manager, Disability Rights UK
- 9.45 - 10.50 **Halving the disability employment gap - challenges and opportunities**
What are the key challenges and opportunities the Government faces in order to achieve its commitment to halve the disability employment gap by 2020? With the Government consulting on its work, health and disability green paper, what are the challenges and best options for engaging more employers in this agenda for change; building on the 'disability confident' campaign, what further steps can be taken to demonstrate the business case for employing a diverse workforce? What action can be taken to ensure that employees experiencing long periods of sickness absence stay connected to the labour market; how can Government ensure that more employees have timely access to support, and particularly occupational health services? In what ways could Jobcentre Plus support for disabled people be improved given the complexity and diversity of individual disabilities; what will be the likely impact of the new 'Community Partnerships,' announced in the Green Paper, in this regard? What are the key challenges for improving the Fit Notes, and wider conversations on work and health? What steps can be taken on a systematic level to 'build a culture of high hopes and expectations' for disabled people in Britain's labour market? Can more be done from a legal perspective to reduce discrimination against disabled employees?
Dr Victoria Wass, Reader, Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University
George Selvanera, Director of Strategy and External Affairs, Business Disability Forum
Dr Nasser Siabi, Chief Executive, Microlink PC
Vicky McDermott, Chief Executive Officer, Papworth Trust
Questions and comments from the floor with **Philip Connolly**, Policy and Development Manager, Disability Rights UK
- 10.50 - 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Professor Kim Hoque, Professor of Human Resource Management, Warwick Business School, University of Warwick
- 10.55 - 11.25 Coffee
- 11.25 - 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Steve McCabe MP, Member, Work and Pensions Select Committee
- 11.30 - 12.30 **Key issues for creating a new Work and Health Programme**

Tailoring and personalising support - tackling the challenges
Kirsty McHugh, Chief Executive, Employment Related Services Association (ERSA)

Representing the voice of disabled workers in programme design
Huma Munshi, Equality Policy Officer, TUC

Work and health - priorities for policy going forward
Cicely Dudley, Research and Policy Analyst, The Work Foundation

Rehabilitation - challenges for supporting those supporting the employee
Dr Joanne Crawford, Head of Ergonomics and Human Factors, Institute of Occupational Medicine

Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 - 12.55 **Work and health - priorities for policy**
Richard Cienciala, Deputy Director, Work and Health Joint Unit, Department for Work and Pensions and Department of Health
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Steve McCabe MP, Member, Work and Pensions Select Committee
Tom Overend, Forum Lead, Westminster Employment Forum