

**Westminster Employment Forum policy conference:
Priorities for supporting people with disabilities in the workplace**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 11th May 2026

Taking place online



**WESTMINSTER
EMPLOYMENT
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Policy priorities for supporting people with disabilities in the workplace**
Professor Kim Hoque, Professor, Human Resource Management, and Vice Dean, People and Culture, Kings College London; and Co-Founder, Disability@Work
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Assessing the impact of legislative developments on stakeholder responsibilities towards workers with disabilities**
impact of new employer duties under the Employment Rights Act 2025 | implications of reform to Statutory Sick Pay | changes to flexible working arrangements and Right to Request | reformed protections against unfair dismissal | considerations and options for future legislation | implications for the use of health data and data sharing arrangements | transparency between employers and employees | assessing options for disability pay gap reporting and employer action plans | costs, administration, and operational capacity | tailoring support for SMEs | approaches to enforcement | role and remit of the Equal Pay Regulatory and Enforcement Unit | priorities for secondary legislation and consultations
Angela Matthews, Director, Public Policy and Research, Business Disability Forum
Brett Mendell MBE, Managing Director, Thomas Kneale
Quinn Roache, Policy Lead, LGBT+ and Disabled Workers, Trades Union Congress
James Taylor, Executive Director, Strategy, Impact and Social Change, Scope
Senior representative, legal
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Strategies for closing the disability employment gap - implementing reasonable adjustments, senior leadership support and effective dispute prevention**
Julie Dennis, Head, Inclusive Workplace Strategy and Policy, ACAS
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 **Considerations and options for possible future welfare system reform - access to funding, eligibility clauses, and assessment processes**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.10 Break
- 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.25 **Collaborative approaches to supporting people with disabilities into sustainable employment opportunities**
Senior representative, combined authority
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Assessing effective practice in employment support and initial findings from the Vanguard scheme**
Senior representative, employer
- 11.55 **Strategies for strengthening workforce participation, retention, and progression - creating inclusive workplaces, tackling structural barriers, and expanding access to employment support**
improving workplace accessibility and implementing reasonable adjustments | the role of technology in supporting workplace health | implications of welfare system reform on employee productivity | priorities for recruitment, retention and progression | the role of Neighbourhood Health Centres in support | implications of reform to Disability Confident scheme | funding strategies and resource allocation | considerations around scheme design and streamlining Access to Work | expansion of Connect to Work scheme | strategies for tackling discrimination and unconscious bias in the workplace | access to networking, mentoring, and sponsorship opportunities | targeted support for young people and those with disabilities not in employment, education or training | strategies for improving practical enforcement rights
Alice Martin, Head, Research, Work Foundation
John Horan, Barrister, Cloisters Solicitors
Hugh O'Keeffe, Inclusion Lead, Onvero
Senior representative, health
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Tackling the disability employment gap and options for policy moving forward**
Debbie Abrahams MP, Chair, Work and Pensions Committee
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Harry Nelson, Westminster Employment Forum