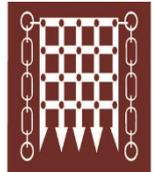


**Westminster Employment Forum policy conference:  
Priorities for supporting people with disabilities in the workplace**

*Timing: Morning, Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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**  
Senior representative, policy  
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*  
Senior representative, employer  
Senior representative, trade union  
Senior representative, health  
Senior representative, advocacy  
Senior representative, legal  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Strategies for closing the disability employment gap and improving senior leadership representation**  
**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*  
Senior representative, human resources  
Senior representative, health  
Senior representative, advocacy  
Senior representative, local authority
- 12.15 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