

**Westminster Employment Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for supporting health in the workplace**

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

\*\*\*Taking Place Online\*\*\*

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER  
EMPLOYMENT  
FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Sonia Kumar MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Allied Health Professionals; and Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Osteoporosis and Bone Health
- 9.05 **Health, employment and economic activity - the policy landscape and considerations for implementation**  
**Dr Sally Wilson**, Head, Workplace Health and Wellbeing Research, Institute for Employment Studies
- 9.15 **Workplace health support - coordination, practicalities and the role of employers**  
*early lessons from the Vanguard Phase | next steps for a Healthy Working Lifecycle standard | roles of employers and local partners in delivery | strategy for scaling up from pilots to sustainable national adoption | insights from previous UK initiatives and international case studies | governance, resourcing and cross sector coordination | integration of clinical and allied health expertise within delivery models | the role of leadership in setting workforce health priorities and culture | compliance and enforcement | delivery of NHS Health Checks into workplace settings | assessing effectiveness of workplace interventions and use of health data to link clinical and employment outcomes*  
**Paul Schreier**, CEO, Simplyhealth  
**Irina Do Carmo**, National Equality Research Officer, Unite the Union  
**Dr Tatum Matharu**, Senior Delivery Manager, Health and Employment, West Midlands Combined Authority  
**Hannah Strawbridge**, Executive Director and Head of Employment, Inspire Legal Group  
Senior representative, employer
- 9.40 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Priorities for taking forward the Keep Britain Working programme**  
**Sir Charlie Mayfield**, Lead, Keep Britain Working Review, Department for Work and Pensions  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Sonia Kumar MP**, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Allied Health Professionals; and Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Osteoporosis and Bone Health
- 10.30 Break
- 10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.45 **'Bridging the gap - data and evidence from implementing a national pilot of work and health support services'**  
**Dr Shriti Pattani**, National Clinical Expert in Occupational Health and Wellbeing, NHS England
- 11.00 **Supporting faster recovery and return to work - health system and employer roles**  
*strategic approaches for reducing time away from work due to ill health | fit note reform and improving clinical workplace coordination | early employer intervention and ongoing support | coordination between health services and employers on support | potential role of neighbourhood health centres in supporting return to work | managing fluctuating and energy limiting conditions in the workplace | addressing variability in access to services and support | lessons in best practice and coordination from pilots and local delivery | customisation of guidance and support for large employers and SMEs | support for employers including guidance advisory services and access to occupational health*  
**Kevin Bampton**, CEO, British Occupational Hygiene Society; and Chair, Council for Work & Health  
**Cate Neal**, Attendance and Wellbeing Lead, Northern Railway  
**Chris Russell**, Senior Policy Manager, Federation of Small Businesses  
**Ruth Tennant**, Director, Public Health, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council  
Senior representative, primary care
- 11.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **The future for workplace implementation of employment rights, inclusion and sustained employment**  
*translating new employment rights and duties into fair and workable practice | changes to statutory sick pay | clarity, enforcement and proportionality for reasonable adjustments | compliance practicalities and costs for different employer sizes | consistency in application of standards | support frameworks for workers with disabilities and long term health conditions | lived experience in policy and workplace design | addressing inequalities in job quality, retention and progression | wider labour market participation objectives, including youth inactivity | reconciling voluntary standards in the Vanguard with statutory duties for employment rights | procurement and funding incentives to support implementation and uptake*  
**Ruhel Ahmed**, Senior Policy Adviser, Acas  
**Jon Clover**, Managing Director, Workplace Health Division, Spire Healthcare  
**Elaine Smith**, Head, Age Friendly Employment, Centre for Ageing Better  
**Andrew Davidson**, National Head, Employment, Hempsons Solicitors  
Senior representative, employer  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for health and employment policy**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Employment Forum closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Harry Nelson**, Westminster Employment Forum