

Karen Adam MSP,
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

By email: EHRCJ.committee@parliament.scot

20 June 2025

PUBLICATION OF THE DISABILITY EQUALITY PLAN – 20 JUNE 2025

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform the Committee that the Scottish Government will today publish the Disability Equality Plan – a key milestone in our commitment to advancing the rights and equality of disabled people in Scotland.

The Disability Equality Plan is firmly grounded in the social model of disability, which recognises that it is not impairments that disable individuals, but rather the societal, structural, and attitudinal barriers they face. This approach underpins our ambition to create a more inclusive Scotland.

The development of the Plan has been shaped through sustained and meaningful collaboration with Disabled People-Led Organisations (DPOs). Their expertise and lived experience have been instrumental in developing a Plan that reflects the priorities of disabled people and sets out a path for transformative change.

The Plan outlines a series of targeted actions to ensure that disabled people are actively involved in shaping policy and decision-making. It also commits to improving disability competence across government, ensuring that the needs and rights of disabled people are considered from the outset in all areas of policy development.

To support delivery, we are investing £2.5 million to strengthen the services, programmes and partnerships that disabled people rely on. We are collaborating with Disabled People's

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Organisations to ensure this investment is deployed in ways that are impactful, sustainable, and aligned with the priorities of disabled people themselves.

Crucially, the Plan introduces a robust governance and accountability framework to monitor progress and hold the Scottish Government to account.

Our approach is rooted in dignity, choice, and direct support. It marks a shift away from one-size-fits-all solutions, toward policies that are shaped by lived experience and designed to empower. This Plan lays the foundation for systemic change and is a vital step toward building a fairer, more inclusive Scotland for all.

I will ensure to keep the Committee updated as we implement the actions set out in the Plan and work to deliver meaningful and lasting change.

Yours sincerely,

KAUKAB STEWART

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