



Department
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David Buxton
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12th March 2015

Dear David

I would like to thank you for the engagement you have had with my officials in shaping proposals to make changes to Access to Work to ensure that it is able to meet the demands placed upon it and to properly support disabled people to stay in or get into work.

I enclose a copy of the Written Statement published today setting out the improvements I am making to Access to Work. These will transform the scheme positively for many users by introducing greater choice and control, accessibility and clarity, and, by making the scheme more efficient, ensure that it can continue to support those new users coming to the scheme for help.

This package of reforms also includes introducing financial limits on the size of awards – for new users from October 2015 and for existing users from April 2018. I understand that this is of concern to you and your members and Rilesh Jadeja, Head of Access to Work Operations will write not only to those with awards currently above the cap level but also to others with awards near the cap level. Each affected user will have at least three annual review points before the cap affects them from April 2018 and our specialist teams will be able to use those opportunities to work intensively with those customers to explore their needs and get their support right on a sustainable basis, and this engagement will enable us to monitor progress against moving towards working within award limits.

I would like to thank you for your views and suggestions which my officials have passed on for my consideration in addressing the challenges of balancing scheme resources with increasing demand. I want to reassure you that I have considered them fully in coming to a decision which I believe will allow the programme to support more people going forward, whilst still providing a significant support to those people who will be subject to the cap.

My officials will continue to work with you to keep you updated as to progress.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Harper', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Harper MP
Minister of State for Disabled People