



Department
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11 July 2023

To: All Chairs of the Regional Stakeholder Network; Members of DPO Forum England; Chairs of the Disability Charities Consortium; Disability and Access Ambassadors.

Dear all,

As you know, in January 2022, the High Court declared that the National Disability Strategy was unlawful. This was because the UK Disability Survey, which was used to inform it, was held to be a voluntary consultation that failed to comply with the legal requirements ('Gunning Principles') on public consultations. The Government was granted permission to appeal this judgment and the appeal hearing was held on Wednesday 28 June 2023. The Court of Appeal handed down its judgment at 11am today, 11 July 2023.

I am pleased to tell you that the Court of Appeal found in favour of the Government. This means that both the UK Disability Survey and the National Disability Strategy have now been found to be lawful by the Court of Appeal, and we are able to continue with the important work of transforming disabled people's everyday lives for the better.

We need to take stock of what this decision means for individual National Disability Strategy commitments and evaluate how best to move forward, with a view to updating Parliament in more detail in September.

We will also continue to move forward with our planned consultation on the Disability Action Plan over summer. The Disability Action Plan and the National Disability Strategy were always intended to be complementary, with the former focusing on concrete, short-term actions to improve disabled people's lives, and the latter setting out our longer-term vision, and I am delighted that we are now able to make progress on both of them in parallel.

I have consistently heard from you, from other stakeholders, and from disabled people themselves, that you want to see action on the important commitments set out in the National Disability Strategy. I am pleased that we are now able to move forward again with this ambitious agenda, and I look forward to working with you to drive joined-up, effective action across Government which will truly transform disabled people's lives for the better.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work