



Plexal (City) Ltd
14 East Bay Lane
The Press Centre, Here East
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park
London
E20 3BS
Tel: 0330 995 0400
enquiries@disabilityrightsuk.org
www.disabilityrightsuk.org

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

rishi.sunak.mp@parliament.uk

14th December 2023

Re-appoint a dedicated Disability Minister

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to express our deep concern over Downing Street's announcement today that the Minister for Disabled People will no longer be a stand-alone role and urge you to reconsider this decision.

Your failure to re-appoint a minister to the post for the last week was shocking, but today's decision to remove the sole position entirely is an unacceptable level of negligence towards a community that continues to be disproportionately impacted by your policies.

At a time when Disabled people are experiencing deep poverty, and the services that support us are being reduced – the importance of this role is greater now than ever.

Your choice to quietly de-mote the position before Christmas, as work and public engagement winds down, is especially callous when Disabled people are unsure how they will survive this winter during a cost-of-living crisis when our disability benefits fail to cover our additional costs.

The timing of this decision is also particularly alarming when module 2 of the COVID inquiry closed yesterday, highlighting how the Disability Minister in its current position did not have enough seniority to drive disability inclusive policies across Government departments. The consequences for this were dire – with 60% of COVID deaths being Disabled people.

Removing the dedicated position of a Minister for Disabled people tells us that our needs aren't a priority for UK Government. De-prioritising our needs and lives is not your policy choice to make. Domestic and international legislation make clear Government's legal responsibilities to uphold and protect Disabled people's lives – yet 14 years after signing the UNCRPD, UK Government continue to violate its obligations.

We urge you to re-consider this decision and move quickly to appoint a dedicated disability minister, who represents the needs and voices of the UK's 14 million Disabled people.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kamran Mallick', written in a cursive style.

Kamran Mallick

CEO of Disability Rights UK