

Helen Pankhurst
Centenary Action
By email: pankhurst@careinternational.org

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22 June 2026

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your email of 18 March, addressed to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government regarding access to elected office for disabled people. Your correspondence was passed to the Cabinet Office and I am replying as the Minister for Women and Equalities.

Since writing, we understand that Centenary Action met with the Minister of State for Social Security and Disability, the Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP, and Disability Unit officials on 28 April to discuss access to elected office.

I can confirm as discussed during the meeting, we are revisiting the opportunity to include elected office legislation in the Representation of the People Bill, provided it does not delay the fund.

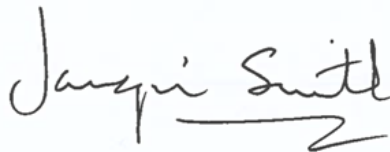
On section 106, the Government is committed to broadening political representation. This includes commencement of section 106, which will encourage better political representation by ensuring political parties publish diversity data.

Officials are currently exploring when and how to commence this provision. Careful consideration needs to be given to how it might be implemented, the necessary supporting regulations and whether any phasing might be needed in implementation.

I welcome your interest in section 106 and entirely agree that it is an important provision. Office for Equality and Opportunity officials will consult with stakeholders, including political parties, in due course.

Thank you for sharing your insights and suggestions at the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Baroness Smith of Malvern
Minister for Women and Equalities