



HOUSE OF LORDS

Equality Act committee



How well is the Equality Act working for disabled people?

Please tell us what you think by
Friday 11th September 2015.



This is an EasyRead version of:
**The House of Lords Select Committee
on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability
call for evidence**



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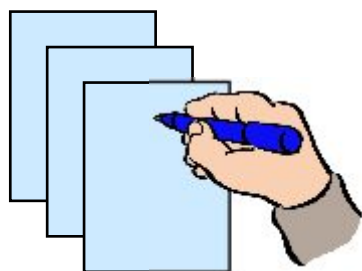
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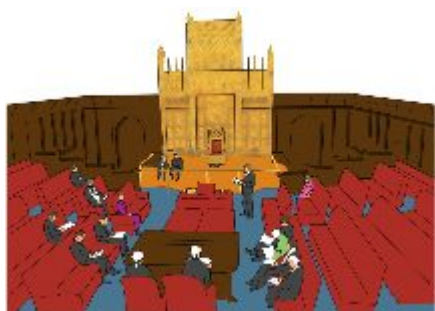


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About this work



This work is being done by a House of Lords committee.

The House of Lords is the part of Parliament where Peers sit.



The other part is the House of Commons where MPs sit.



Parliament has groups or committees to look at things the Government is doing.



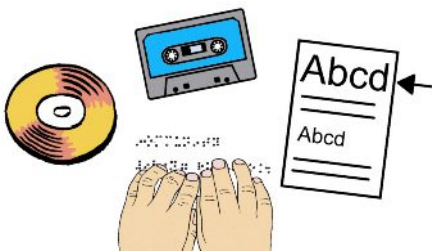
They use what they find out to check if things are working well or help change things or make them better.



In this committee we are asking people what they think about how the Equality Act is working for disabled people.



The Act came out in 2010.



If you need this paper in another form or need any other help please contact:



Telephone:
020 7219 4384

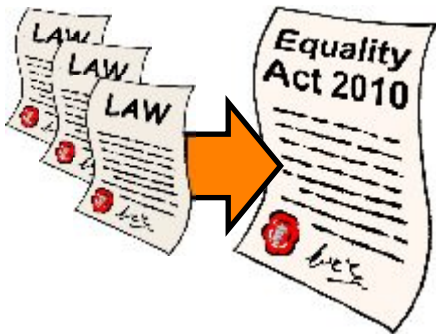


Email:
hlequalityactcmtee@parliament.uk



About the Act

The Equality Act is all about making sure people are treated equally and fairly.



The new Act brought several other laws together under one new law.



It was meant to make the law about treating people equally and fairly stronger.



The law wants to stop people from being treated unfairly because of these 9 reasons:

1. how old they are



2. disability



3. changed sex



4. marriage or civil partnership



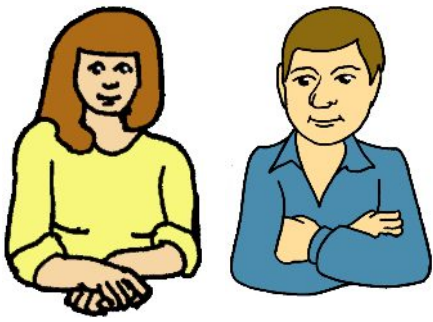
5. having a baby



6. race



7. religion or belief



8. Sex



9. Gay lesbian or bisexual people.



It says changes should be made, when they can be, to stop disabled people being treated unfairly.



Changes should be made in:

- work



- schools and college



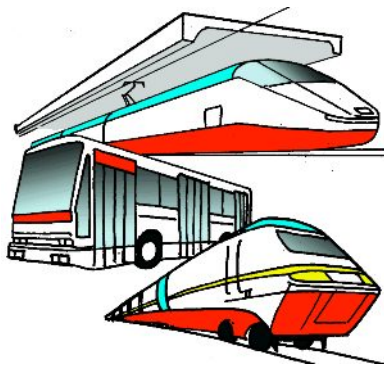
- housing



- goods and services



- public services



- transport.



The Act also says **public bodies** (like the government and councils) must think about what they can do to make sure people are being treated equally and fairly.

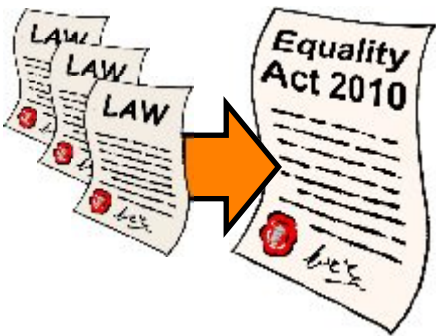


What we want to know

We would like to know if you think the Equality Act has made these changes for disabled people.



If you don't have an answer for any question please just go onto the next one.



1. Has the Act brought together all the other laws on discrimination and made them stronger?



Before the Equality Act there was a separate law on disability.

Have things improved or not because disability is now only one of nine groups in the law?



2. Are there gaps in the law on treating disabled people equally?



Making changes

3. Do people know about the sorts of changes that should be made to treat disabled people equally?



How has this worked in transport, taxis, education and using sports grounds?



4. Should the law be made clearer about the changes that should be made?



If yes, can you say how?

What public bodies (like the government and councils) should do



5. Have public bodies (like the government and councils) done what they should do to make sure people are being treated equally and fairly?



Is there anything you have seen that shows they have done or not done this work?



6. England, Wales and Scotland have done this in different ways. Is there anything you have seen that shows they have done this work better or worse in the different countries?



Checking what is happening

7. Lots of people in government deal with the law on equality. How well do they work together?



8. How good has the Equality and Human Rights Commission been?



Have they helped disabled people to be treated more fairly?



9. Could other organisations that check things (like the Care Quality Commission checking services) do more to make sure disabled people are treated equally?



10. If people think they are being treated unfairly they can go to courts or tribunals.

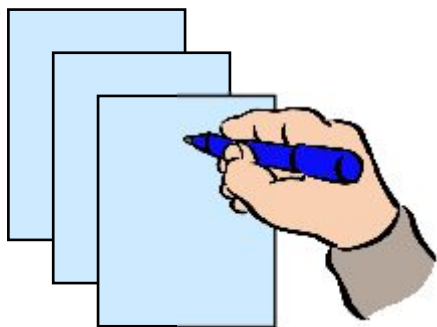


How well have disabled people been able to use these?

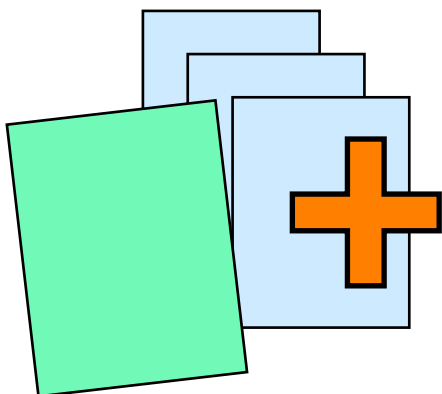


11. Are there any other ways we could make the Equality Act 2010 work better?

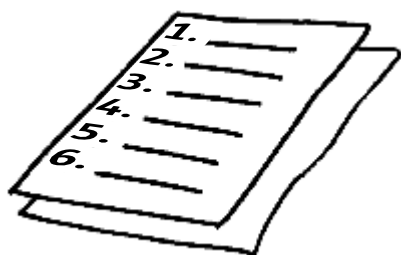
How to tell us what you think



1. We need people to write down what they think in less than 6 sides.



If you are going to go over 6 sides please have one page at the front that gives short details of the rest.



2. If you use Word and can use numbers, please add a number to each paragraph, like these but from the beginning to the end (don't worry if you can't do this)



3. Please put the date and your name on it. Add the name of your group if you are writing for a group.



4. It is best if we can have it sent over the internet.



5. If you don't use Word or the internet you can still send us what you think in the post.



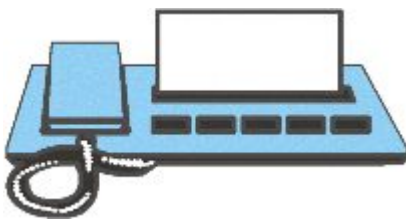
To send it over the internet go to:
www.tinyurl.com/EqualitySubmit



Or email:
hlequalityactcmtee@parliament.uk



Or post to:
**Clerk to the Select Committee on the
Equality Act 2010 and Disability,
Committee Office, House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW**



Or fax to:
020 7219 4931



You can check how things are going on our website:
www.tinyurl.com/EqualityCommittee

If you cannot use any of these, just ask us if we can help you.

Committee rules



If you send us something it then belongs to the committee.



This means we are allowed to use the information and usually put it in our report that people can see on the internet.

If you tell us something that you think should be kept private do tell us what and why.



You should be careful not to tell us what you think about cases that are in court at the moment. If you are worried about this please talk to us.



We might ask some people who have sent us information to come and talk to us a bit more about what they have said.



Please tell other people about this if you think they might be interested in sending us information.

Credits



This paper has been designed and produced for the House of Lords Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability by the EasyRead service at Inspired Services Publishing Ltd. Ref ISL 039/15. July 2015.



www.inspiredservices.org.uk

It meets the European EasyRead Standard.



It has been user-checked by the **Making It Easier Group** of people with learning disabilities.



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