

Liz Kendall MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

24 March 2025

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Decision not to consult on a number of proposals within the Green Paper, Pathways to Work**

We are writing to express our extreme concern that the government has stated that it will not be consulting on a number of proposals within the Green Paper<sup>1</sup> published this week. These are principally those that affect the level of benefit payable including a tightening of the personal independence payment (PIP) criteria, scrapping of the work capability assessment (WCA) and making the health element of universal credit contingent on PIP eligibility, and rebalancing the universal credit elements.

Parliament.uk states that –

*‘Green Papers are consultation documents produced by the Government. The aim of this document is to allow people both inside and outside Parliament to give the department feedback on its policy or legislative proposals.’*

However, despite the fact that the above changes will have life-changing impacts on some disabled people – stripping them of financial support of as much as £10,000 per year<sup>2</sup> – the government has chosen not to take feedback on these key policy changes. This is completely at odds with the statement in the Green Paper –

*‘The Get Britain Working White Paper announced that DWP will establish a panel to ensure that the views of disabled people and people with health conditions are at the heart of the design and delivery of the reforms. We are in the process of establishing this panel, which will also consider the benefit reforms set out in this paper.’*

This failure to consult, particularly with disabled people and the organisations that represent them, is outside the established practice of consultation and shows a complete disregard for the government’s

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pathways-to-work-reforming-benefits-and-support-to-get-britain-working-green-paper>

<sup>2</sup> Loss of the limited capability for work-related activity element and enhanced rate daily living PIP

commitment to 'putting the views and voices of disabled people and people with health conditions at the heart of everything we do'.<sup>3</sup>

NAWRA is also extremely concerned that the Westminster government failed to consult with the Scottish Government prior to publication of the Green Paper – as confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Shirley-Anne Somerville<sup>4</sup> - despite the fact that disability benefits are devolved to Scotland. If the Scottish Government chooses not to change the criteria for Adult Disability Payment in line with PIP, then there will be different eligibility criteria for the health element of universal credit north of the border creating unfairness and injustice.

NAWRA is therefore calling on the government to reissue the Green Paper opening up all proposals for a full consultation, and to commit to genuinely taking the views of disabled people into account when progressing its reforms.

We look forward to your response to this request.

Yours sincerely

Alan Markey  
**Chair, National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers**

---

<sup>3</sup> Paragraph 66 of the Green Paper

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-20-03-2025?meeting=16328&iob=139478#orscontributions\\_M3750E441P777C2669770](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-20-03-2025?meeting=16328&iob=139478#orscontributions_M3750E441P777C2669770)