



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

9th May 2022

Dear Constance,

RE: EDM 1126 – REFORM DISABILITY BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding EDM 1126, and specifically the reform of disability benefit assessments. I have read your comments on this issue with interest.

Members of the Government do not, by convention, sign Early Day Motions, as doing so is likely to breach the *Ministerial Code's* rules on collective responsibility and I must therefore politely decline your request. However, I appreciate the strength of feeling on this issue.

I firmly believe that the benefits system should support the people who need it most. The health and disability green paper, and subsequent consultation, considered how to improve the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) current services so they are better and easier to use, how extra support can help people navigate the system, and what more can be done to provide improved support for disabled people entering employment.

I am encouraged that one of the DWP's aims is to improve the assessment process for financial support. This will ensure it is as simple as possible and people can clearly understand the reason for, and approach to, an assessment, what evidence to provide and the outcome received.

Furthermore, I know that the DWP are also committed to building transparency and consistency in the delivery of assessments and in their outcomes. A more personalised service would stop people having to repeatedly provide information or attend unnecessary repeat assessments.

Ministerial colleagues are determined to deliver reforms that are developed through close collaboration with disabled people, and I look forward to the Government's response and detailed proposals in due course.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE