

# Inclusive Parliament Coalition statement on House of Commons Administration's response to the Modernisation Committee

May 2026

## Summary

The Inclusive Parliament Coalition welcomes the [House of Commons Administration's response to the Modernisation Committee's report on \*Access to the House of Commons and its procedures\*](#).

We recognise the House Administration's commitment to improving accessibility across the parliamentary estate, including through strengthened governance, accountability mechanisms, and continued investment in physical accessibility and staff training.

However, while the response sets out a range of actions relating to infrastructure, organisational processes, and digital communications, it does not provide a clear or comprehensive approach to communication accessibility or to ensuring equitable participation in parliamentary processes for signers and people with communication disability, difficulty, or difference.

We therefore urge the House Administration to build on the progress outlined and to work with the Coalition and relevant organisations to deliver the practical, systemic changes required to ensure Parliament is accessible to and inclusive of everyone.

## What we welcome

The Inclusive Parliament Coalition welcomes the House Administration's response and the progress it sets out. In particular, we welcome:

**Paragraph 34-36:** The embedding of accessibility within governance structures, including oversight by the Commons Executive Board and the work of the Estates Accessibility Board and Members' Group.

**Paragraph 58:** The commitment to accountability through business planning, regular reporting, and the inclusion of accessibility within the House Administration's strategy.

**Paragraph 34-35:** Continued investment in improving the physical accessibility of the parliamentary estate, including through the Restoration and Renewal programme and step-free access targets.

**Paragraph 57:** The expansion of accessibility training and guidance for staff, including mandatory training for customer-facing roles and additional support on neurodiversity.

**Paragraphs 127, 151:** We also welcome the House Administration's commitment to improving digital communications, including the use of plain English, alternative formats, and accessibility features such as subtitles and BSL in social media outputs.

## **What needs to happen**

To ensure that accessibility is fully inclusive of signers and people with communication disability, difficulty, or difference, further action is required.

While the response references accessible formats, plain English, and digital accessibility, these measures are primarily focused on published outputs and communications (paras 127, 142, 151). There is limited detail on how Parliament will ensure consistent, real-time communication access within live parliamentary activity.

In particular, the response does not set out:

- how British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation will be provided as standard in parliamentary proceedings;
- how augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) or other communication supports will be integrated into the Chamber, committees, or other parliamentary settings; or
- how accessible materials will be made available simultaneously with standard formats as a default, beyond general commitments to alternative formats.

While the House Administration highlights the promotion of BSL in communications outputs and the development of alternative formats (para 151), this does not address the need for communication accessibility as a core component of participation in parliamentary business.

We therefore call for:

- a clear commitment to providing BSL interpretation, captioning, and accessible formats as standard and in real time across parliamentary proceedings;

- the integration of AAC and other communication supports within parliamentary processes; and
- the recognition that communication accessibility is fundamental to participation, not limited to external communications.

## **What more needs to happen**

We welcome the progress made in relation to workplace adjustments for Members of Parliament, including the development of workplace adjustment passports and coordinated support through House services (para 36, para 68).

However, the current approach remains largely reactive and individualised. The proposed passport system relies on Members identifying and sharing their needs, and does not yet constitute a fully proactive, system-wide model of accessibility embedded across parliamentary functions.

More significantly, there is limited engagement with the barriers posed by parliamentary procedures themselves. While the response acknowledges the importance of enabling Members to carry out their duties with reasonable adjustments (paras 67–68), it does not set out specific plans to address:

- rigid speaking formats, including the need to use specific forms of words;
- time limits and procedural constraints; or
- the lack of flexibility for alternative forms of communication.

The focus remains on facilitating adjustments within existing systems, rather than reforming those systems to be inclusive by design.

This represents a significant gap, given that procedural barriers are a key determinant of whether individuals are able to participate meaningfully in parliamentary business.

We therefore repeat the calls made in our previous evidence:

- the development of a proactive, system-wide approach to reasonable adjustments, including a centralised, MP-owned access needs framework; and
- a programme of work to review and reform parliamentary procedures to ensure they are inclusive of different communication needs.

## **Conclusion**

The House Administration's response reflects a strong focus on improving infrastructure, governance, and organisational processes. While this provides an important foundation, it does not yet address the full range of barriers to participation faced by signers and people with communication disability, difficulty, or difference.

Further action is required to ensure that communication access and procedural inclusion are embedded alongside physical and digital accessibility.

The Inclusive Parliament Coalition stands ready to work collaboratively with the House Administration and the Modernisation Committee to support the development and implementation of these measures, so that accessibility is understood not only as access to buildings, but as full and equitable participation in democratic life.

## **About the Coalition**

The Inclusive Parliament Coalition is made up of over 30 organisations calling for the United Kingdom Parliament to be inclusive of and accessible to signers and people with communication disability, difficulty, or difference.

