



Making the House of Commons more accessible



Inclusive Parliament Coalition

Who we are



The **Inclusive Parliament Coalition** is a group of over 30 organisations.



Parliament is where **MPs**:

- speak up for their communities
- check the Government's work
- make and change laws.



MP stands for Member of Parliament.

An MP is someone we vote for to speak up for us in Parliament.



MPs work in the House of Commons.

This is part of the UK Parliament.

What we do



We work together to make the UK Parliament easier for disabled people to use. This is called being accessible.



At the moment, it is hard for people with communication difficulties to take part. They cannot easily join in Parliament's **debates** and meetings.



A **debate** is when MPs talk about a topic in Parliament and say what they think should happen.



We want Parliament to include people who use British Sign Language and other ways of communicating.

Making Parliament accessible



The **House of Commons Modernisation Committee** is a group of MPs.



The committee wrote a report about making Parliament more accessible.



The **House of Commons administration team** organises Parliament and its buildings.



They read the committee's report and made a plan about what to do.
We tell you what we think about the plan.



Good things in the plan



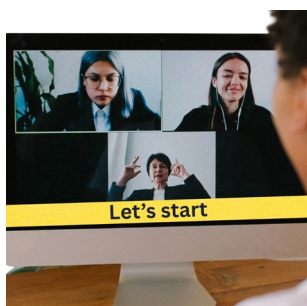
- The House of Commons plans to make Parliament more accessible.



- They will spend money to make the building more accessible. For example, step-free access.



- They will give staff training on disability and **neurodiversity**. **Neurodiversity** means people think and learn in different ways.



- They will make digital communication more accessible. For example, with captions, plain language, and other accessible formats.



Things not in the plan



- The plan does not say enough about accessible communication.



- It does not say how they will be fair to people who use sign language. Or people who use other ways of communicating.

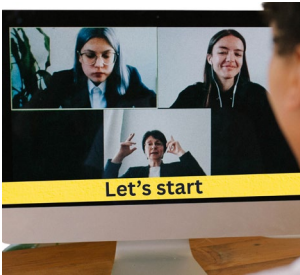


- It is mostly about information, like emails and reports. It does not say how Parliament will work every day.

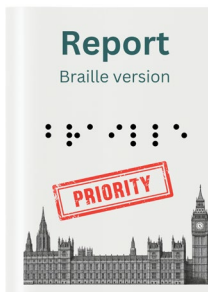


- It does not say how everyone can take part in debates and meetings fairly.

We want these things to happen



- Use British Sign Language (BSL) and captions in **all** debates and meetings.



- Use accessible formats for written information, like Braille and Easy Read. Give it to people at the same time as standard formats.



- Use communication supports in Parliament, like augmentative and alternative communication (AAC).



- Change the rules about speaking in debates in Parliament to make it easier for people to take part.

How to contact us



If you have any questions or feedback, contact Peter Just:

- Email peter.just@rcslt.org

STAMMA

 **RCSLT**

This Easy Read leaflet was made by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and STAMMA.



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