

To all Political Parties in the United Kingdom,

It is not acceptable that:

- 300,000 disabled adults live in house that does not meet their access needs ¹
- Only 1 in 4 railway stations are considered accessible to disabled people ²
- 36% of adults with an impairment have reported experiencing difficulty with accessing public services ³

For over 25 years The Access Association has worked to promote the creation of an inclusive environment. We represent a national network of professionals who specialise in and work in the field of access for disabled people and inclusive design. We emphatically welcome the findings of the recently published House of Commons Women and Equalities Select Committee report 'Building for Equality'.

If implemented the recommendations of the report will have a significant impact on the quality of life for, and choices available to disabled people in Britain, representing a tangible step change in terms of equality of access and the creation of a barrier free environment.

The Government has an essential role to play in ensuring that society removes existing barriers, and prevents new barriers to inclusion from being created, so creating a society which is fair and places no one at a disadvantage due to an impairment.

We call on all the political parties to commit to implementing the recommendations within the first two years of the next political term, to demonstrate their commitment to creating a barrier free, inclusive environment, enabling all members of our society to participate in full and have productive lives.

Sue Fox

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Access Association Vice-President

Email web@accessassociation.co.uk

¹ Building for Equality: Disability and the Built Environment, Women and Equalities Committee, 2017.

² Improving rail travel for disabled passengers in Britain, Papworth Trust, 2015.

³ Disability in the United Kingdom 2016, Papworth Trust.