



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Justin Tomlinson  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Dept for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House

By email

4 June 2015

Dear Justin

Congratulations on your appointment as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Disabled People.

I am writing to ask about the government's plans in relation to the cuts to welfare spending totalling £12 billion which your party has announced it intends to make. During the general election campaign, senior Conservatives offered assurances on a number of occasions that a Conservative government would continue to support disabled people. Yet disabled people, their families and carers remain deeply fearful about the government's plans.

Yesterday in Prime Minister's Questions, Stephen Timms specifically asked the Prime Minister to rule out cuts to the benefits disabled people rely on. He did not do so – and indeed, I was surprised to hear him suggest that personal independence payment (PIP) is more generous to the most severely disabled people. You will be aware that the most generous level of PIP is no higher than the highest rate of payment in the predecessor benefit, Disability Living Allowance (DLA). What's more, the government's policy intention for PIP is to reduce spending on this benefit by 20% compared to spending on DLA. Even if the most severely disabled people are protected, millions more disabled people are already set to lose out. Further cuts to their benefits could only worsen their position.

I would also be grateful for your assurance that there will be no cut to carer's allowance. My colleague Barbara Keeley asked Jeremy Hunt about this in the chamber on Tuesday. Again, he failed to rule out a cut. Carers perform a highly valued role, often, and rightly, praised by Ministers. It would be a disgrace if the financial support they receive via carers allowance were to be reduced.

I hope you will be able to offer me – and more importantly – disabled people, their families and carers – the assurances I seek. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kate Green', with a stylized, wavy flourish at the end.

**Kate Green MP**  
**Labour Member of Parliament for Stretford and Urmston**