

Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill: Recruitment of Lived Experience Advisory Panel

Easy Read Version

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Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

The Scottish Government has said it will make new laws to protect the rights of people with learning disabilities and autistic people (including people with dyslexia, ADHD, and other neurodivergent people).



This will be known as the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill.

Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodiversity Commissioner



The Scottish Government is also thinking about putting a person in charge of protecting the rights of people with learning disabilities and autistic people.



This person would be in charge of making sure the new laws are followed.

This person would be known as the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodiversity Commissioner.

Making a Bill



A Bill is an early version of a law which has not yet been introduced.



This Bill will be made by the Scottish Government.





While they are making the Bill the Scottish Government will talk to many people across Scotland to find out what they think of it.



The Bill will then be introduced to the Scottish Parliament.



The Bill will then be looked at and talked about by a group in the Scottish Parliament who will tell the Members of the Scottish Parliament if it thinks the Parliament should support the Bill or not.



Members of the Scottish Parliament will talk about the Bill and maybe make changes to it.



The Members of the Scottish Parliament will then vote to pass the Bill or not.



If the Bill is passed by the Scottish Parliament it will then be approved by the King and become law in Scotland.

When this happens the Bill will be known as an Act.

Human Rights Based Approach



The Scottish Government wants to make sure that the human rights of people with learning disabilities and autism are the most important thing when they are making this Bill.



They are making sure that the Bill will be made with the help of people who have lived experience of Learning Disabilities and Autism.



The Scottish Government has said they want to make a panel of people with lived experience of Learning Disabilities and Autism to help them make the Bill.

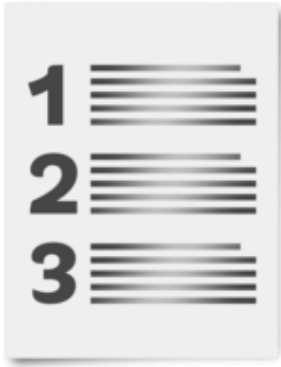


This will be known as The Lived Experience Panel.

The Role of The Panel



The Lived Experience Panel will work with people who work for the Scottish Government.



Some of the main things that this panel will do are listed below.



The panel will help to decide what information should be put in the consultation for the Bill.



The panel will help to decide what questions should be asked in the consultation.



The panel will suggest what problems they think the Bill should try to deal with.



The panel will discuss the good and bad things that could come with introducing a new commissioner.



The panel will help the Scottish Government to understand the best way to get in touch with people with Learning Disabilities and with Autistic People.



The panel will help the Scottish Government reach as many different people who will be affected by the Bill as they can.



The group will help the Scottish Government to decide what should be put in the Bill after the consultation has been done.

Extent of panel's influence upon Scottish Government



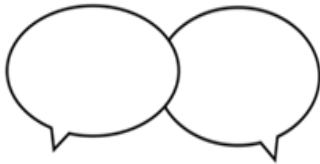
The panel will help those who work for the Scottish Government to write documents for the consultation.



The Scottish Government will be the ones who have the final say about what goes into the documents.



The panel will help the Scottish Government to get in touch with groups who are involved in working with people with Learning Disabilities and with Autistic people.



The panel will help the Scottish Government make sure that it is getting its message across to others and talking to other groups in the right way.



The panel will help the Scottish Government to let as many people as possible know about the consultation.

Composition of the panel



The panel will have at least 12 and up to 20 members.



It will include a mix of people with Learning Disabilities, Autistic people, and Neurodivergent (including people with dyslexia, ADHD, and other neurodivergent people).



The Scottish Government will take a flexible approach with the panel.



This means that the Scottish Government will run meetings to make sure that everyone can take part in a way that feels comfortable.



For example discussing things in smaller groups before coming back to talk with the whole panel.

Where will meetings take place?



Where the meetings take place will depend on what the panel members decide.



The Scottish Government is happy for the meeting to take place either online or in person or as a mixture of both.

Time Commitment of the Panel



The amount of time the panel will need to meet will be different at each stage of making the Bill.



During most of the time that the Bill is being made that panel will probably have to meet once a month.



More meetings than this might be needed at the time.



The Scottish Government will pay travel costs for members if there are any in-person meetings outside Edinburgh.



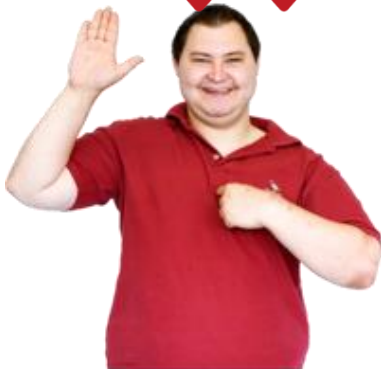
Who can apply



Anyone who identifies as having a Learning Disability or as being Autistic or Neurodivergent can apply for the panel.



People do not need to be officially diagnosed with a Learning Disability or Autism to apply.



Panel members will be there to talk about their own experiences and will not be there to talk about the views of any groups or organisations they are part of.



People that help to run or have a job in any organisation that has a view on the Bill or the commissioner will not be allowed to apply to be on the panel.



These people should help the Scottish Government with the Bill through their organisation instead.



If someone is a volunteer for an organisation or is a member who does not do paid work for them they can still apply for the panel.



The Scottish Government wants to make sure that many different people from different backgrounds can help to develop the Bill.



The Scottish Government wants to use the panel to make sure they hear from people in Scotland they would not normally hear from.



The Scottish Government also wants to use the panel to hear the views of experts who might be involved with an organisation but do not work for them or lead them in any way.

Payment arrangements



The members will be paid an allowance so that they are able to take part in the panel.



This is being done to make sure that people from many different backgrounds take part.



The panel members' involvement will be as volunteers.



The members will not be working for the Scottish Government or any other organisation while they are part of the panel.



The way people will be paid their allowance will be agreed with each panel member separately.



People can be paid in either vouchers or cash depending on what works best for each person.



People on the panel can also choose not to be paid if they want.



People who are taking part will be given a written paper which says what they have agreed to.



This paper will tell people what they are being paid and how they are being paid.



This paper will also tell people where they can get advice if they are worried about their benefits or the taxes they pay changing because they are taking part.



Taking part may cause problems with the benefits people are getting. If it does cause any problems then a letter will be sent to their welfare agency.



This letter will let welfare agencies know that taking part in the panel is not a job. It will also say that the money people are getting is not a wage.

What the Scottish Government expects from the panel



The Scottish Government expects people on the panel to come to panel meetings to give their own views and opinions.



The Scottish Government expects people on the panel to find ways to improve the plan the Scottish Government has suggested.



The Scottish Government expects people on the panel to help them come up with information and questions for the public consultation.



The Scottish Government expects people on the panel to help them make sure the consultation is accessible to people with learning disabilities and autistic people.



The Scottish Government expects people on the panel to read, watch, or listen to anything which has been prepared for the meetings.



The Scottish Government expects people on the panel to treat others on the panel with respect.

What the panel can expect from the Scottish Government



People on the panel can expect the Scottish Government to organise the meeting and give people anything they need to read two weeks before it.



People on the panel can expect the Scottish Government to make reasonable adjustments during the meeting such as Easy Read documents or interpreters.



People can expect to be paid by the Scottish Government to enable them to be a part of the panel.



The Scottish Government will not ask people on the panel to talk about things they are not comfortable with.



The Scottish Government does not expect people on the panel to have any special skills or know a lot about the law.



The Scottish Government wants people on the panel to share their own experiences as a person with Learning Disabilities or as an Autistic person.



The Scottish Government wants to involve people from ethnic minority groups and LGBTQ+ people.

Process

An 'easy read' registration form with a light blue background. At the top left is a small icon of a person with the text 'easy read'. To the right of this is the text 'Please fill in this easy read form'. Below this are three input fields, each with a label and an icon: 'Your name' with a person icon, 'Address' with a house icon, and 'Phone' with a mobile phone icon.

If you want to take part in the panel you should fill out the form attached to this document.



You should send it to this address:
LDAN.Bill@gov.scot



The form has to be sent to the address by the date:
19/01/2023.



Those who want to take part will be asked to have a chat with a member of staff from the Scottish Government and someone from SCLD or Inspiring Scotland.



At this chat people will be asked about why they want to be on the panel and what can be done to help them be involved as much as they can.



The Scottish Government is looking forward to hearing from people who want to take part in the panel.



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