

Email to my MP January 2011 regarding the Spartacus Report (Responsible Reform) ARCHIVED WEB PAGE

<http://edyourself.org/DLA.pdf> via <http://edyourself.org/articles/DLA.php>

Dear Paul

The Responsible Reform Report into Disability Allowance Reform is published today. The Responsible Reform Report is the brainchild of inspirational disability campaigner Sue Marsh, who writes for the Guardian. Sue also has her own blog here <http://diaryofabenefitscrounger.blogspot.com/>

The Responsible Reform Report has been written and researched by disabled people and was funded on a shoestring by hundreds of small donations from people on low income. It is backed by organisations and disability experts including Disability Alliance, Mind, Papworth Trust and Scope. The Responsible Reform Report comprehensively demolishes the Government and mainstream media myths surrounding DLA and exposes the unintended and ruinously expensive consequences of introducing an arbitrary new system without pre-legislative scrutiny.

I very much hope you are able to look at the Responsible Reform Report and will call for a pause to Personal Independence Payments in light of this new research.

<http://tinyurl.com/78erjru> Responsible Reform: Shortened Report - Responsible Reform (accessible version)

<http://tinyurl.com/86h82gb> Responsible Reform: Shortened Press Release link (accessible version)

Contrary to widespread belief, Disability Living Allowance is not "an out of work benefit", is not "easy to claim and never reviewed" and is not "subject to widespread fraud." On the contrary, fraudulent claims are less than half of one percent according to research from DWP.

As you know, my passionate and overwhelming interest is home education and over the years I have become aware that DLA is a lifeline for home educating families with a child on the autistic spectrum.

Through social media networks such as blogs and twitter I have learned a great deal more about the massive and destructive impact of restricting the eligibility criteria for disability benefits with knock-on effects for other passported benefits such as Carer's Allowance.

The Personal Independence Payment system will only have two categories instead of the current three categories for DLA. At present the Government is still allowing children to receive DLA but many young adults will not meet the new criteria and will have no financial support to enable them to lead more independent lives and to move into education, training or the workplace.

The hope is that we can persuade peers to back an adjournment debate calling for a pause of at least 6 months. In that time, plans for PIP should be reconsidered with the views of disabled people properly taken into account.

Thank you