

So we can help you, but can you help us?

We are looking for disabled political activists to tell us about the barriers they have experienced and, more importantly, how these can be overcome.

We are keen to recruit people willing to write blog articles as disabled political activists that may inform and inspire other disabled people to get involved in politics.

We would also welcome volunteers who have skills to offer that might help expand this project by helping us spread awareness and information.

How to find out more:

E-mail: accesspolitics@inclusionScotland.org

Phone: **0131 281 0864** (Typetalk calls welcome)

Twitter [@A2P4DP_Scot](https://twitter.com/A2P4DP_Scot) and [@InclusionScot](https://twitter.com/InclusionScot)

Web: <http://inclusionScotland.org>



Nothing about us, without us!

Support for disabled people being political activists and seeking elected office



Our voices ■ Our choices



Access to Elected Office Research project

Last year we conducted research into access barriers for participation in political parties. Research conducted by paid disabled interns identified a number of areas where providing more support and guidance could improve the inclusion of disabled people within the political process.

Access to Politics—our advice and support service

Since November 2015 the Scottish Government has funded us to provide direct advice and (non-financial) support for disabled activists and those seeking to get involved in politics—and also for the organisers of the parties or non-party political groups they wish to be included in.

We can offer one-to-one support and advice about:

- Reasonable adjustments
- Obligations of the Equality Act
- Sourcing training on disability equality, inclusive communications, etc.
- Innovative solutions to overcoming access barriers and challenging preconceptions

Our goal is to encourage and support more disabled people into political activism and participation, and challenge preconceptions and lack of knowledge within political organisations.

Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland

Many disabled people are put off from seeking elected office because of the additional costs they face. To help level the playing field and help pay for reasonable adjustments you might need, the Scottish Government has agreed to fund a pilot access fund for the Local Council Elections in 2017.

Disabled people seeking selection and election as a candidate for local council seats will be able to apply for financial assistance. The fund will be administered by Inclusion Scotland.

Under guidance developed in co-production with disabled people, awards will be made that specifically relate to access costs and reasonable adjustments to address impairment barriers. The awards will be decided independently of political views or parties.

Did you know?

A disability representative Scottish Parliament would have about 26 disabled Members.

Only 1 MSP in the current Scottish Parliament openly defines as disabled



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