

	Em2 Proposed Changes for Disabled People	
1	That this Conference is very concerned about the consequences for sick and	1
2	disabled people, after Rishi Sunak’s announcement on April 22 nd 2024 revealing	2
3	plans to remove the power to write ‘fit notes’ from GPs and give it to	3
4	unspecified ‘Health Professionals’ as well as his proposed changes to Personal	4
5	Independence Payment entitlement.	5
6	We have already seen how these ‘Health Professionals’ have performed when	6
7	doing PIP and ESA assessments (with targets for how many people they can	7
8	disqualify and often lacking any specialist knowledge of the conditions that the	8
9	people they are assessing, suffer from), and now the Tories want to give ‘ <i>Health</i>	9
10	<i>Professionals</i> ’ the power to decide whether someone is fit for work or not, thus	10
11	overriding the decision of your GP, who may have worked with you and your	11
12	family for years, or even the professional judgement of a consultant who is a	12
13	specialist in your condition or disability.	13
14	Rishi Sunak also plans to legislate to close benefit claims for anyone who has	14
15	been claiming for 12 months but is not complying with conditions on accepting	15
16	available work. We have already seen examples of ‘Health Professionals’ who	16
17	may have no knowledge of the health condition the patient is suffering from,	17
18	and under pressure from their superiors, finding people fit for work when their	18
19	consultant has said otherwise, so what is to stop that happening in these new	19
20	proposals resulting in sick and disabled people becoming utterly destitute,	20
21	through no fault of their own.	21
22	Conference feels that these proposals seem even crueller, in the light of recent	22
23	cuts in National Insurance, i.e. making the most vulnerable in our society pay	23
24	for tax cuts.	24
25	Conference instructs the EC to campaign to oppose these ‘reforms’ and for sick	25
26	and disabled people to be given the help and support that they need, and not to	26
27	have them threatened with having their benefits taken away if they cannot cope	27
28	with the pressure they are being put under to seek work that they may simply	28
29	not be well enough to undertake. Should any of this appalling legislation be	29
30	passed, Conference also instructs the EC to lobby an incoming Labour	30
31	government for its rapid repeal.	31
	Disability Working Group	
	Mover	
	Seconder	