

1969

Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Allegations of Ill Treatment of Patients and other Irregularities of the Ely Hospital, Cardiff

"The problems arise mainly in hospitals for the subnormal, precisely because there is too much less that one can actually do in care. There is not so much incentive in that sense for good doctors to be in such hospitals"

Richard Crossman, Secretary of State for Social Services, 27 March 1969

1978

Normanfield Inquiry Report

"The trouble is — the report makes it clear — that many people knew just what the position was. Some of them were in positions of authority with power to act, but they failed to act. The lesson from this is clear: that those who hold positions of authority really must accept the responsibility"

David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, 21 November 1978

1981

Disabled Persons

"From time to time there is a tremendous outcry about the conditions of mentally handicapped people, but it dies down very quickly if all seems to run into the sand"

Jack Ashley MP, 2 July 1981

2002

Learning Disability White Paper

"Health improvement plans provide a means of addressing the health needs of people with learning disabilities so that they do not experience avoidable illness and premature death"

Jacqui Smith, Minister of State, Department of Health, 1 February 2002

2005

Disability Discrimination Bill

"Learning disabled people still experience institutional discrimination when they interact with public services. The health sector is no different"

Banwar Lalie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions, 28 February 2005

2007

Patient Safety

"Trusting that the NHS, at every level, takes its responsibilities to treat people with learning disabilities as it would treat any other patient is a top priority - that is non-negotiable"

Nan Lewis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health, 24 July 2007

2008

Disability Rights

"I am confident that we can transform the way in which the NHS responds to the needs of people with learning disabilities, and ensure that all NHS staff understand individuals, their needs and how to deliver the best possible health care and outcomes. It is unacceptable for any learned health professional not to discharge their responsibilities for the care of any patient in the NHS"

Dawn Primarolo, Minister of State, Department of Health, 15 October 2008

2009

Adults with Learning Disabilities

"Preventable deaths of people with learning disabilities are unacceptable"

Phil Hope, Minister of State, Department of Health, 5 March 2009

2010

People with Learning Disabilities (NHS Treatment)

"Will the Minister tell us what progress the Department of Health has made in achieving equality of provision in health services for people with learning disabilities?"

Barbara Keeley MP, 14 July 2010

2013

People with Learning Disabilities: Health Inequalities

"We know a great deal about the problem and we cannot continue to allow one group of people, those with learning disabilities, to experience such drastic healthcare inequality"

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, 18 July 2013

2014

People with Learning Disabilities

"People with a learning disability have suffered second-rate healthcare for far too long, resulting in premature and painful deaths"

Lord Ali, 12 June 2014

"Even when all the other factors have been taken into account, the disparity in mortality between people with and without learning difficulties is alarming. There does not appear

to have been any significant change in this disparity over the past decade or more. The statistics speak for themselves"

Lord Bishop of Carlisle, 12 June 2014

"As the confidential inquiry team noted, optimism that lessons had been learnt from past reviews was quashed during its work, which showed that the same issues are resurfacing, which is simply unacceptable"

Lord Adonis, 12 June 2014

2016

Southern Health NHSFT Urgent Question

"It is vital that we take the issue of avoidable mortality as seriously for people with learning disabilities and mental health problems as we do for other members of our society"

Alastair Burt, Minister for Community and Social Care, 4 May 2016

2016

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust

"What worries me most, I have said this to families in private and I say it again here, is that I hear the same things again and again"

Alastair Burt, Minister for Community and Social Care, 8 June 2016

Lord Adonis, 12 June 2014

2016

Learning Disability: Premature Deaths

"More than three times the number of people with learning disabilities in England die each year than would be expected from general population mortality rates, after allowing for their age and gender profile. Why is this proving so difficult to change?"

Banwar Lalie, 17 October 2016

2018

Learning Disabilities Mortality Review

"Seven years after Winterbourne View and five years since the avoidable death of Connor Sparrowhawk, the findings of the review show a much worse picture than previous reports about the early deaths of people with learning disabilities"

Barbara Keeley MP, 8 May 2018

2019

People with Learning Disabilities

"Does the Minister accept that we are tolerating widespread human rights abuses? Surely families want not another review but action to protect their loved ones"

Banwar Lalie, 6 June 2019

2020

Covid 19: Effects on people with learning disabilities

"Could the Minister tell us ... how the actions she is taking to reduce the disproportionate impact of death rates for those with learning disabilities is being addressed with facts, so that we can see the progress that the actions of her Department have led to, given the number of deaths in the second wave?"

Ruhana Ali MP, 15 December 2020

2020

Health: Learning Disability and Autism Training

"We can all imagine how we would feel if we were told that we might expect to live much shorter lives for reasons that could quite easily be counteracted"

Lord Wigley, 10 February 2020

2021

Cowdon Park Hospital: Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Review

"We need to acknowledge the scale of this scandal and its impact on real people, the most vulnerable in our society. We did need to acknowledge that we should all be ashamed. This is not unique. We have heard this before"

Jessie Mayhew MP, 21 September 2021

2021

Coronavirus, Disability and Access to Services

"During the first wave of coronavirus, some people with learning disabilities were told, shockingly, without prior consultation, that they would not be resuscitated if they were to fall ill from Covid-19"

Tulip Siddiq MP, 15 April 2021

2023

In-patient Abuse: Autistic People and People with Learning Disabilities

"At one time, reports and investigations into the scandal gave rise to the hope of change, but despite the tireless efforts of journals, charities and activists, the clinicians reported in the CQC's inquiry into Winterbourne View all that time ago are as true today as they were 12 years ago: there is a 'systemic failure to protect people or to investigate allegations of abuse'"

Barbara Keeley MP, 18 April 2023

2023

UK Mortality Rates

"Only 4 in 10 people with a learning disability live to see their 65th birthday, and in 2021 a shocking 49% of reported deaths were avoidable. Some 1,200 people die avoidably every year when timely access to good-quality healthcare could have saved them. These inequalities are national and systemic"

Banwar Lalie, 12 January 2023

2026

Learning Disabilities: Health and Social Care Access

"The most depressing thing about this debate is that it has been decades since it first spoke in a debate that pointed out that anybody with a learning disability or autism will have very bad health results and die early. That is an established fact ... We have been doing this for a long time with various Governments"

Lord Adonis, 26 March 2026

"This debate is not to ask for more of the same; to do so would be to sign death sentences for thousands more individuals with a learning disability. The system does more than fail. It facilitates what Professor Sara Ryan describes as 'racial murder' ... At current trends, it will take 100 years to close the life expectancy gap. I therefore ask the Minister: does she accept that the century-long wall is the 'national rights failure'?"

Lord Schwab, 26 March 2026

1971

Farleigh Hospital (Inquiry)

"The three other recommendations are of a general nature. One concerns the reporting of deaths to coroners ... referred this recommendation to the Committee on Death Certification and Coroners for consideration in the context of their wider remit"

Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Social Services, 7 April 1971

1981

Silent Minority film aired

"As I watched that film I could not help thinking that if this Bill had been on the statute book and implemented 20, 30, 40 or 50 years ago many of the sad scenes one saw in that film would not have been as they were portrayed"

Lord Benton, 23 June 1981

1988

The mentally ill and handicapped

"On the one hand, there are public statements suggesting that mental illness and mental handicap are priority services and have been so for years and years. On the other, we have a situation of appalling human neglect, of which this House really must take urgent notice"

Lord Ennals, 18 May 1988

"Research shows that preventable mortality for people with a learning disability is four times that of the population at large ... There is no doubt that the NHS systematically fails people with a learning disability"

Lord Ali, 28 February 2005

"The health inequalities of people with a learning disability have been known for many years"

Roger Berry MP, 24 July 2007

2008

Disability Rights

"The health inequalities faced by people with a learning disability is another crucial issue on which the Government must make progress"

Lord Ali, 5 June 2008

"We should not forget that although the right of people with learning disabilities to experience equality in health care provision is a profoundly moral one, it is also a legal requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Mental Capacity Act 2005"

Tom Clarke MP, 18 July 2010

"The hard evidence that people with learning disabilities face stark health inequalities is simply overwhelming"

John Burt MP, 5 March 2009