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11 July 2023

Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
Chair of Women and Equalities Select
Committee

Dear Caroline,

Further to our discussion on 5 July 2023 about the National Disability Strategy and the Government's appeal against the High Court judgment of January 2022 that the National Disability Strategy was unlawful, the Court of Appeal handed down its judgement at 11am today, 11 July 2023.

I am pleased to tell you that the Court of Appeal found in favour of the Government. This means that both the UK Disability Survey and the National Disability Strategy have now been found to be lawful by the Court of Appeal, and we are able to continue with the important work of transforming disabled people's everyday lives for the better.

We need to take stock of what this decision means for individual National Disability Strategy commitments and evaluate how best to move forward, with a view to updating Parliament in more detail in September.

We will also continue to move forward with our planned consultation on the Disability Action Plan over summer. The Disability Action Plan and the National Disability Strategy were always intended to be complementary, with the former focusing on concrete, short-term actions deliverable in 2023/24 to improve disabled people's lives, and the latter setting out our longer-term vision, and I am delighted that we are now able to make progress on both of them in parallel.

As we discussed last week, I have consistently heard from disabled people and from disability stakeholders that they want to see action on the important commitments set out in the National Disability Strategy. I am pleased that we are now able to move forward again with this ambitious agenda, and I look forward to working with you to drive joined-up, effective action across Government which will truly transform disabled people's lives for the better.

I trust that this is a helpful update and I will write again soon with the further details that I committed to provide at last week's committee hearing.

With best wishes,

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work