

How the BBC can make news for people with a learning disability

This is an open letter to
The Right Honourable Lisa Nandy MP,
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



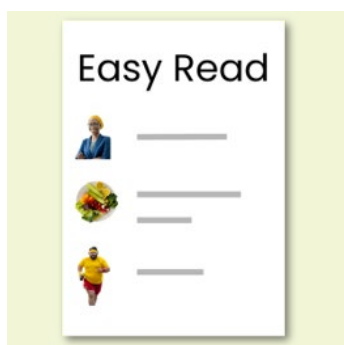
About this letter



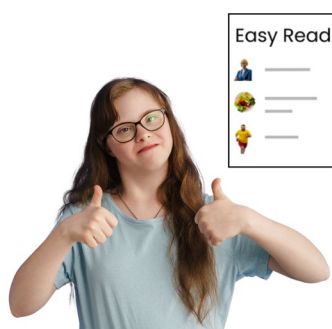
The letter is from disabled people and organisations all over the UK.



The letter is to Lisa Nandy at the UK Government.



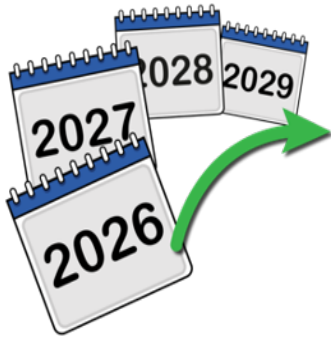
This letter is written in **Easy Read**.
Easy Read is a way to communicate that is easy to understand.



Easy Read uses:

- simple language
- pictures
- a clear layout.

Easy Read is used by many people with a learning disability.



This letter is about the BBC.

Lisa Nandy is looking at how the BBC will work in the future.



In this letter we tell Lisa how we want the BBC to help disabled people.



This is an **open letter**.

An **open letter** is where everyone can see the letter.



This is so everyone can know our ideas and say what they think.

About the BBC



The BBC is the UK's biggest **public service broadcaster**.



Public service means working to do what people need or want.



A **broadcaster** is an organisation that makes TV, radio, or online programmes.



The BBC is a public service broadcaster so it should make programmes for everyone.

BBC news



The BBC makes a lot of news programmes.



The BBC also has lots of news on its website.



BBC rules say the news has to help everyone understand what is going on in the UK and the world.



The problem is that not everyone can understand BBC news.



People with a learning disability can find it hard to understand the hard words in BBC news.



Everyone needs news they can understand so they can:



- take part in everyday life



- vote in elections for who to run the country



- know how to stay safe.



Every household in the UK pays for the BBC.



There are about 1 million adults with a learning disability in the UK.



It is not fair that there is no news for adults with a learning disability to understand.

What we want the BBC to do



We want the BBC to make news that is easy to understand.

Easy to understand news would have:



- easy words



- a slower speed



- stories about what is going on in the UK and the world.



- stories about things that matter to people with a learning disability.



We also want the BBC to make news with people with a learning disability.

This means people with a learning disability filming, writing, and speaking the news.

What happens in other countries



More than 12 countries in Europe make news that is easy to understand.



Some countries have laws that say public service broadcasters must make news for people with a learning disability.



We want the UK government to tell the BBC to make news for people with a learning disability.



The government should put this in the BBC's **charter**.



The **charter** is a document with rules about how the BBC works and what it must do.



The BBC is the world's best public service broadcaster, but not for people with a learning disability.



People with a learning disability want a BBC that can inform, educate and entertain them.

How to find out more



Look at this [report about easy to understand news](#).



Email us: training@disabilityequality.scot

Who this letter is from



This letter was organised by Disability Equality Scotland.



Many people and organisations have signed the letter to show they agree with it.

On the next 4 pages you can see the full list of people who signed it.

Ali Gunn	United Response
Amy Low	AbilityNet
Andrew Lee	People First (Self Advocacy)
Calum Johnson	Claru (a trading name of CeeSquared Ventures Ltd)
Carol Boys, Chief Executive	Down's Syndrome Association
Catherine Talbot	Voyage Care
Christina Roberts	Kingston University
Clare Tarling	Writer of Easy Read and other accessible communication.
Deborah Chinn	King's College London
Dr Carlo Eugeni	University of Leeds
Elizabeth Bell	Disability Arran
Florence Mackenzie	Clackmannanshire Older Adults Forum
Francis Weldon	I need or prefer accessible language and / or Easy Read.
Gary Aubin	SEND Matters UK
Hannah Tough	Inclusion North CIC
Heather Fiskin CEO	Inclusion Scotland

Helen Macguire	Former teacher of people with learning disabilities, Clackmannan College.
Irene Tuffrey-Wijne	Kingston University
Jack Marshall BEM	Learning Disability England
Jessie-Anne Malcolm Public Involvement Lead	NHS Forth Valley
Jonny Ding	Kingston University
Jon Sparkes OBE Chief Executive	Mencap
Kate Chate	Learning Disability England
Kate Grant	Easy and Clear
Katy Brickley	Go Easy Read
Kelvin Dobson	Easy Read Online
Kerrie McCrae-Morton	I need or prefer accessible language and / or Easy Read
Kim Dams	DG Voice
Kim Harley Kean	Communication Inclusion People
Kimberley Swan	FAIR (Family Advice Information Resource)
Lena Gillies	Dyslexia Scotland

Lesley Fowler	Aberdeen Action on Disability Ltd
Lorne Berkley	The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities
Lucy Alexander	Books Beyond Words
Lucy Mulvagh, CEO	Disability Equality Scotland
Mal Cansdale	Barod CIC
Mandy Crowford	LDN London
Mary Lavrie	HaRkinHR
Paula Braynion, Managing Director	Future Directions CIC
Pauline Boyce, CEO	Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL)
Rhianne Forrest	Children's Health Scotland
Rob McDowall	Welfare Scotland
Roger Firman	Former Chair of UKAAF
Roisin Kelly	I work with people with learning disabilities
Ruth McEwan	Lung Ha Theatre Company
Samantha Williams	Learning Disability Wales
Sami Dunn	Hijinx Theatre

Sara Johnson	Bridge06
Stephen Wright	Shared Care Scotland
Tim Kielty	Learning Disability England
Tom McLean	Easy Read Online
Tzipporah Johnston	Door in the Wall Arts Access CIC
Wendy Moss	Borders Talking Newspapers
Yianna Armosti	Sinclair Strong Consultants



Thank you for reading our letter.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



We wrote this letter with help from:

- BaseSix
- Your Symbols
- Go Easy Read

