

To whoever it may concern,

As you have likely heard, the UK government is acting to reduce funding for disabled people, including access to PIP benefits and support systems.

University is a place which I regard to have a great pride for inclusivity and equality, one which understands that support for disabled students is absolutely necessary in helping them thrive, and I am sure that you recognise the threat that these imposed cuts will present not only to disabled people within our local communities, but upon our campuses and within our university.

There are many students who would not be attending university without assistance from government schemes such as PIP, and there are many others who may not be able to continue their education if changes are enforced to make seeking and receiving assistance even more complex, and therefore inaccessible.

At the heart of this University's community are its student support systems, however I am sure you are aware that these cannot function alone without additional schemes such as PIP, which provides primarily financial support for students. Our government is currently planning to greatly reduce this support, which not only puts dozens, if not hundreds, of students in our very community at greater risk of hardship, but around 1 million people at risk of losing crucial support which enables them to keep their jobs, education, and housing. This not only poses a short and long-term threat to disabled people, but a long-term threat to all members of the community, including those who can currently claim PIP for severe illness, injury, and age-related diagnoses.

At current, the government's proposed £5 billion cut to disability benefits will strip financial support from around one million disabled people. These cuts will have a devastating impact on those who already face immense challenges, pushing many further into poverty, homelessness, and severe hardship. Within our university community, this is likely to push people out of education, with their futures and efforts being cruelly sabotaged despite years of hard work. Furthermore, these cuts would inevitably put greater pressure on the university, such as with hardship funds, student support, diagnosis support grants, mental health and wellbeing services, accommodation services, and much more, adding greater stress to an education system which is already under a great deal of pressure through a severe lack of funding.

Our government is also set to announce a further £500 million of welfare cuts now also being set to effect Universal Credit alongside PIP. This will similarly damage the lives of those with the greatest struggles in our communities and is shamefully unacceptable.

For many disabled people, benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (PIP) are not a luxury—they are a lifeline. They help cover the costs of essential care, mobility aids, transport, education, and even necessities such as food and heating. Without this support, many will suffer, and tragically, some will not survive. We have seen before how cuts to welfare have worsened mental and physical health, increased reliance on food banks, and, in the most extreme cases, led to unnecessary deaths from preventable illness, decline in condition, and suicide. We cannot allow this to continue.

It is with this that we write to you as a group representing your student body. We would like to request that you, as an organisation, publicly oppose these changes by making a public statement against the reduction of disability and wellbeing related funding. We urge you, as the student body of this university, to stand against these cuts and protect the most vulnerable in our society - both on campus and in our city.

Please use your voice to support policies that support disabled people rather than punish them for needing assistance, and please support us by publicly voicing your opposition to these major cuts.

We would appreciate a response outlining your position on this issue and how you intend to advocate for those who will be affected, both within your student community and the wider community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Regards,

\*NAME\*, in representation of your student body