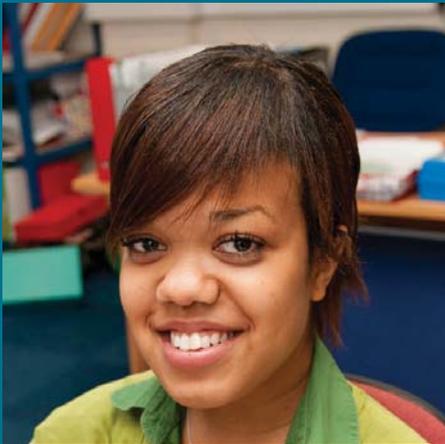




Department
for Work &
Pensions

Access to Work



Advice and support to help
you start or keep a job

Make it work for you
www.gov.uk/access-to-work

> If you have:

- a disability
- a physical health condition, or
- a mental health condition

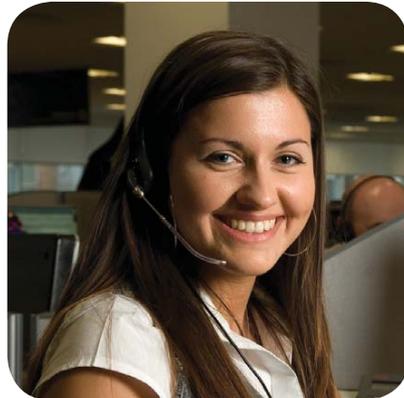
Access to Work can provide advice and support to help you with starting and keeping a job.

This is what some of our Access to Work customers have told us:

“I’m very impressed by Access to Work: with the support provided I can continue to have a fulfilling career whilst coping with my disability.”

“I’ve been supported by Access to Work through adjustments to my workplace and my vehicle, as well as a support worker and special aids and equipment. Without Access to Work support, my working life would be severely restricted and I wouldn’t be able to do the broad range of duties in my job. “

“ Without the help and support of the Access to Work programme, I wouldn’t be able to do my job, it’s as simple as that.”



➤ Find out how Access to Work has helped support people

Janet had a car accident and suffered serious spinal injuries, which meant she was increasingly using a wheelchair. Janet began to find it impossible to see how she could continue with the career she cherished as a chemistry teacher.

Janet contacted Access to Work and was helped by a dedicated adviser who worked with her employer to look at how Janet could cope with the difficulties she faced at work.

Access to Work carried out an assessment to find out what adjustments were needed and approved funding towards a personal support package for Janet. This included a number of changes to make her work area accessible and safe and a support worker to help Janet with demonstrating experiments to students and other tasks.

Janet said “I’m very impressed by Access to Work and the support provided means I can continue to have a fulfilling career whilst coping with my disability. As a disabled person, it is possible to lead a very useful life, even though you may have to have some help to do it.”

Mohamed got a job with a Metropolitan Borough Council. He has a learning disability as well as Autism and is unable to travel on his own.

Mohamed’s Autism means he has to have a set procedure each day as he does not cope well with change. Access to Work funding was put in place so that Mohamed could travel safely in a taxi to and from work each day and without stress.

Mohamed said “I can’t go out on my own so if I didn’t have a taxi from Access to Work I would not be able to work.”

Shirley is self employed and sells oak wood crafts online. She has dyslexia and was worried that she wouldn't be able to cope with a website, handling orders and sales enquiries.

After an Access to Work assessment it was recommended that Shirley had dyslexia coaching and assistive software to help her read text. A voice recorder was also supplied so she could take notes and deal with her customers easily.

A company who specialise in helping people with dyslexia supplied the package for Shirley and helped her through the process. Shirley was delighted; she said "Without this help I wouldn't have the confidence to promote my business."

Nicola was unemployed and has been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder. She experiences episodes of depression and mania.

Nicola started work as a Project Administrator and wanted support to manage her symptoms at work

Access to Work provided a grant for a personal counsellor who helps Nicola manage her job and condition at work. Nicola has monthly meetings, phone calls, texts and email support with her counsellor.

The counsellor has helped Nicola manage her symptoms by giving her someone to talk to about her anxieties. This has helped to build Nicola's confidence remain in work.

Nicola said "The support has helped me overcome my fears and manage my symptoms. Returning to work has reduced my mental health symptoms and I wouldn't have been able to do it without the support I got."

Access to Work can help pay for support you may need because of your disability or long term health condition, for example:

- aids and equipment in your workplace
- adapting equipment to make it easier for you to use
- money towards any extra travel costs to and from work if you can't use available public transport, or if you need help to adapt your vehicle
- an interpreter or other support at a job interview if you have difficulty communicating
- a support service if you have a mental health condition and are absent from work or finding work difficult, or
- other practical help at work, such as a job coach or a sign-language interpreter.

➤ **Get the support you need from Access to Work to help you:**

- stay in work if you are employed or self employed
- start work
- gain valuable work experience through the Youth Contract
- get the job you want and get on the career ladder
- start your own business through New Enterprise Allowance

> How do I apply?

For more information about Access to Work, or to make an application, contact our customer service teams. If you live in:

South of England:



Phone: **0208 426 3110**



Textphone: **0208 426 3133**



atwosu.london@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Scotland or North of England:



Phone: **0141 950 5327**



Textphone: **0845 602 5850**



atwosu.glasgow@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

Wales or Central England:



Phone: **0292 042 3291**



Textphone: **0292 064 4886**



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Find out more at



www.gov.uk/access-to-work