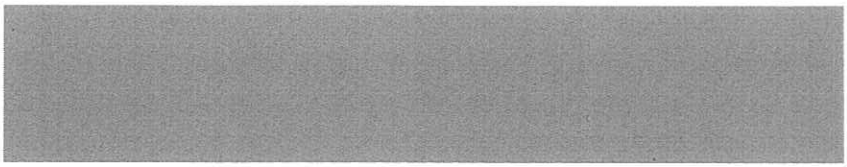
Received 21/2/11



Disabled Living Allowance Reform – Public Consultation

(First submission dated 13.12.10)

(Credentials:
A: 57 years working with such organisations as: Royal Mencap Society, Scope, Leonard Cheshire Disability, National Bureau for Handicapped Students.
B: Developed the disabled student support service for the Open University.)

!: The extension of the time-limit for responses allows examination of recent developments.
2: The *Guardian* Q and A slot to Maria Miller on their website produced 309 responses before the site was closed down. These reinforced my previous opinion that the proposals are so offensive and damaging to the disabled community that they should be withdrawn and amended.
3: In her *Guardian* slot today Maria Miller argues that her proposals have not been properly understood. This claim is 'rubbished' in Amelia Gentleman's article. 'Judging by the powerful messages posted to Miller during an online question and answer session on the guardian website last week, **most concerns about the reforms appear not to be based on lack of information but on the very precise knowledge of the system that people who rely on benefits have to acquire.'** (This judgement is confirmed by the very detailed and compelling arguments on 'The Broken of Britain' and other websites. To argue that 'they don't understand' is not one that can stand examination!)
3: Mobility for disabled people in care homes. It is **not sufficient** to guarantee that the government will not remove their ability to get out and about. Disabled people in care homes should have the same rights as the rest of the disabled community to use the mobility on their own terms – not have to accept whatever form of mobility their local authority is prepared to concede.
4: Any mobility system in the hands of local authorities will lead to a 'post-code lottery' of very varied systems. It would throw up a mass of appeals and complaints that would plague DWP into the distant future.

16.02.11