

Cheshire Disabled Peoples Panel

Minimum Income Guarantee

As you may be aware, there is no statutory duty for the Secretary of State to increase MIG rates (see the attached response of the DHSC to my FOIA request) - however I and other disabled people's organisation representatives lobbied the government to unfreeze at the statutory level and the 2021 Health and Social Care Command Paper announced unfreezing in line with this year's annual inflation from April 2022.

The expectation of central government, as you will appreciate, is that local authorities will compensate for the historic freezing by exercising their Care Act powers to uplift at the discretionary local level.

Jenny Hurst of Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea and I calculated by how much the MIG rates would have risen had they been increased at the statutory level in line with the annual rise in inflation by the Secretary of State at his annual reviews. Please find this attached.

At today's Social Care Commission, I highlighted this issue and called for the local authority to commit to redressing the injustice of MIG rate freezing at statutory level and inadequate uplifting at local level via a significant discretionary level increase from April 2022.

Please note that we have gathered data from over 100 local authorities on their MIG rates - which in some NW authorities are significantly higher than in CWAC.

Please forward this information to the Commissioners—thank you.