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GOVERNMENT AIMS TO HALVE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT GAP IN UK

Ministers have promised to change the Work Capability Assessment used to diagnose whether someone is fit for work, as part of a range of new proposals aimed at helping ill and disabled people find employment.

5 A paper published by work and pensions secretary, Damian Green, also confirms that the government aspires to help at least 1 million disabled people into work, though it sets no timescale for achieving this ambition.

It promises to halve the current employment gap between disabled and non-disabled people, described as the difference between the fewer than five out of ten disabled people who have a job compared with eight in ten non-disabled people.

10 « This is one of the most significant inequalities in the UK today and the government cannot stand aside when it sees the injustice and unfairness, » Mr Green says.

15 He added : « We must be bold in our ambition to help disabled people and those with bad health conditions. The planned measures mark the start of our action to confront the attitudes, préjudices and misunderstandings that, after many years, have become ingrained within the welfare state, within the minds of employers and across wider society. »

Patrick Butler, Social Policy editor. Monday 31 October 2016
From: www.theguardian.com/society/

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Protesters outside the Department of Work and Pensions in London protest in March against US firm which runs controversial fit-to-work tests on behalf of the UK government

From: www.theguardian.com/society/

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