

Theresa May MP
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
10 Downing Street
Westminster
London
SW1A 2AA

Billy Davis
Hft
5-6 Brook Office Park
Folly Brook Road
Bristol
BS16 7FL

Thursday 7th June 2018

Dear Prime Minister,

REF: HFT'S VOICES TO BE HEARD GROUP'S WALK IN OUR SHOES CAMPAIGN

Hft is a national charity that supports more than 2,500 adults with learning disabilities in England. It's speak-out group, Voices to be Heard, gives the people supported by Hft a platform to meaningfully engage on the issues that matter to them. We have not only helped to shape Hft's internal policies and procedures, but we have even presented petitions to Whitehall departments, and travelled to Geneva to give evidence to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.


Prime Minister, we do not believe that this government listens to the hopes and concerns of people with learning disabilities. *Walk In Our Shoes* is our campaign to encourage politicians to take a closer look at what life is like for people with learning disabilities, to meet with us and to hear what we say when you ask us for our views – essentially, to walk in our shoes!

From funding cuts through to toilet closures and Brexit, our concerns are not so dissimilar to those of people without a disability, and yet we do not feel that we are treated as equally as they are. We hope that you will read our stories in the enclosed booklet, and understand how your policies affect us. The booklet includes photos of us showing you our favourite pair of shoes and telling you about our biggest challenges and concerns for what it is like to live in England today as an adult with learning disabilities.

Your love of shoes is very well known. That is why, along with the booklet, we have included a pair of shoes for you to wear.

We also hope that you like the shoes, which we had made especially for you. We hope to one day see you wearing them, so that we know you have walked in the shoes of adults with learning disabilities, and thought about how the policies you create will impact on us.

As part of our campaign, we are asking you to invite your MPs who have Hft services in their constituencies to visit us and speak to us about the issues that matter to us. A list of their names is included along with this letter.



We look forward to welcoming them to our services. Thank you in advance for taking the time to walk in our shoes, and see what life is like for adults with learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely



Billy Davis, Public Affairs &
Policy Manager, Hft



Becky Cowley, Chair of Voices to
be Heard



Cynthia Webb, Outgoing Special
Projects Manager for Inclusion, Hft



Henry Edgecumbe, Vice-Chair of
Voices to be Heard