

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

Discrimination against guide dog owners

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me about discrimination against guide dog owners.

Guide dog and assistance dog owners have important rights under the Equality Act 2010. It is against the law for service providers to treat people with disabilities less favourably because of their disability, or because they have a guide or assistance dog with them. However, there are far too many incidents of guide dog owners not having the same right to services supplied by shops, banks, hotels, libraries, pubs, taxis and restaurants as others.

It is particularly shocking that in a one-year period, 42% of assistance dog owners were turned away by taxis because of their dog. In most circumstances it is illegal for taxi and minicab operators to refuse services to people with guide dogs. The law is clearly in place, this is now about education and enforcement.

In my former role as Shadow Transport Minister, I was in regular contact with Guide Dogs and raising issues like these and I have supported their campaign emphasising the importance of disability equality training for taxi and Private Hire drivers. I still keep in touch with Guide Dogs and I will be tabling some questions to the Government to see what more they can do to end the frequent illegal discrimination that guide dog owners face. You can keep track of all my contributions in Parliament [here](#).

Thanks again for everyone who contacted me about this issue.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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