



Disability Rights Commission

DISABILITY RIGHTS COMMISSION

DISABILITY BRIEFING

March 2006

Making rights a reality

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Introduction

Welcome to the March 2006 edition of the DRC Disability Briefing. The Disability Briefing is a compendium of official statistics on disability, produced by the DRC twice yearly. The document is divided into three sections:

Section One includes core data on disabled people's participation in the labour market using spring 2005 Labour Force Survey (LFS) data. This section also includes time series analysis using LFS quarterly spring data back to 1998, in order to highlight changes and trends over the past seven years.

Section Two presents the latest estimates on the disabled population in Britain from the Family Resources Survey (FRS), published by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Section Three presents a short progress report on research projects undertaken at the DRC over the past year.

If you have any comments on the content of this edition or additional suggestions or topics to be included in future briefings, please contact Breda Twomey at the DRC by email breda.twomey@drc-gb.org.

Background notes

1. Coverage

a. Labour Force Survey (LFS)

As the LFS does not collect disability related information for people over state pension age on a comprehensive basis, all the LFS data provided in this briefing is limited to adults of working age, i.e. men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

b. Family Resources Survey (FRS),

- an adult is defined as anyone aged 16 and over, except for 16 to 18 year olds in full time non-advanced education.
- a child is defined as someone aged under 16, and aged 16 to 18 year olds who is in full-time non advanced education and living at home

2. Definitions of disability used in the LFS

Since spring 1997, the LFS has provided information about disability using the following range of definitions:

Current DDA disabled: Includes people who have a long term health problem or disability which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Work limiting disabled: Includes people who have a long-term health problem or disability which affects the kind or amount of paid work which a person might do.

Long term disabled: Includes people who meet the criteria for either current DDA or work-limiting definitions of disability (or both – as is often the case) are defined as having a current long-term disability.

Clearly, estimates for the different definitions may vary, and it should be noted that the difference between the DDA definition estimates and those based on work-limiting disabilities may be exaggerated due to people not being able to assess the extent to which their work limiting disability would also affect their ability to carry out normal day to day activities. It follows that including all

those with current long term disabilities improves the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the estimates.

Please note that throughout this briefing, people who are 'long term disabled' will be referred to as 'All disabled', unless otherwise specified.

Further information on the disability questions in the LFS is included in the *Technical Note* at the end of this briefing.

3. Definitions of Impairment/health problems used in the LFS

Please note that the LFS data on impairments/health problem used in this Briefing (See **Tables 6, D1, D2, D3, E**) are based on the LFS Health variable. At present, this variable has 17 different health problem/impairment categories. In **Appendix 2** at the end of this document, we have provided a note to clarify how each impairment category is defined in the Labour Force Survey.

The broad impairment categories used in the time series tables, Tables D, D1, D2, D3 and Table E are modified from the standard LFS min health problem/impairment categories mentioned above.

4. Definition of disability used in the Family Resources Survey (FRS)

In the 2003/4 FRS, estimates of disability are based on "the number of people with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities".

4. LFS data on Benefits

Users of LFS data on benefits in this briefing should note that due to a discontinuity in LFS benefits variable (when child benefit recipients were only included from 2001), all benefits estimates exclude people on child benefits.

Key Facts and Figures

Analysis from the **spring 2005** LFS indicates that:

- There are 6.8 million disabled people of working age in Britain, one fifth of the total working age population. Fifty two per cent (3.5 million) are men and forty eight per cent (3.3 million) are women.
- There has been a gradual increase in the size of the working age disabled population over time, from 6.0 million in spring 1998 to 6.8 million in spring 2005 – a growth of fourteen per cent over a seven year period. Over the same period, the non disabled population increased by 0.6 per cent.
- Across Britain, there are regional variations in the prevalence of disability. The North East of England and Wales have the highest proportions of disabled people, with one quarter of the local working age population in these regions disabled – 24 per cent and 23 per cent respectively. London and the South East have lower than average proportions of disabled people at 16 and 17 per cent respectively.
- Disability rates increase with age; whilst 9 per cent of adults aged 16-24 are disabled, this increased to about 44 per cent in the 50 to retirement age category.
- Many disabled people work or want to work. Half of disabled people of working age, 3.4 million people, are in work and 1.2 million disabled people without a job, want to work.
- Since 1998, disabled people's overall employment rate has increased steadily by 7 percentage points, from 43 per cent to 50 per cent. Despite this, inequalities in the proportions of disabled and non disabled people in work persists, with only half of disabled people in work, compared with four fifths of the non disabled population.
- Employment rates vary greatly according to the type of impairment a person has. Disabled people with mental health problems have the lowest employment rates of all impairment categories, at only 20 per cent.

- Disabled people in employment are more likely to work in manual and lower occupations, and less likely to work in managerial, professional and high-skilled occupations.
- At £9.88 per hour, the average gross hourly pay of disabled employees is about 10 per cent less than that of non disabled employees (£10.85 per hour).
- Disabled people are still only half as likely as non disabled people to be qualified to degree level and are twice as likely as non disabled people to have no qualification at all. This pattern of inequality has not changed since 1998.
- Disabled people continue to experience high rates of unemployment. Estimates from spring 2005 indicate that the unemployment rate for disabled people in Britain was 8 per cent, compared with 4 per cent for non disabled people.
- Just over half of the disabled population of working age in Britain are economically inactive. However, one third of inactive disabled people would like to work, compared with just under one quarter of non disabled people.
- According to the LFS, there are 2.5 million disabled people out of work and on state benefits: over one third of the total disabled population of working age.

Section One: Spring 2005 LFS Core Data

Table 1 Economic status of disabled people in Britain

Great Britain, spring 2005 LFS, not seasonally adjusted.

(Thousands, per cent, £)

	All long-term disabled	DDA current disabled	Work limiting disabled	Not disabled
All persons	6,808	5,651	5,257	28,566
Per cent of total population	19	16	15	81
Per cent from ethnic minority group	8	8	9	10
Per cent women ¹	47	48	45	46
Per cent with no qualifications	26	27	30	11
On state benefits² and not in work	2,472	2,294	2,393	1,218
Per cent of total population	36	41	46	4
...would like work and available to start in a fortnight	312	254	230	513
Per cent of total population	5	5	4	2
In work	3,408	2,632	2,121	22,974
Per cent	50	47	41	81
Self-employed	13	13	15	12
Working part-time	29	29	32	24
In a permanent job	95	95	95	95
Average gross hourly wage (£)	£9.88	£9.97	£9.48	£10.85
ILO unemployed	281	209	239	1,018
ILO unemployment rate (%)	8	7	10	4
... who are unemployed for a year or more (%)	35	35	36	18
Inactive	3,117	2,808	2,587	4,565
Per cent of population	46	46	49	16
..would like work	901	808	838	1,107
Per cent of total inactive	29	29	32	24

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

Source: Labour Force Survey

¹ Lower numbers may reflect the fact that women aged 60-64 are not included in the working age population.

Table 2: Economic status of disabled people by country

Great Britain, spring 2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted.

(Thousands and per cent)

	Great Britain	England	Scotland	Wales
All disabled	6,808	5,724	678	405
Economically Active	3,691	3,158	348	185
Economic Activity Rate (%)	54.2	55.2	51.3	45.6
In employment	3,409	2,916	319	175
Employment rate (%)	50.1	50.9	47.0	45.6
ILO unemployed	281	242	29	10
Unemployment rate (%)	7.6	7.7	8.4	5.4
Economic inactivity	3,117	2,566	330	221
All Not disabled	28,556	24,778	2,445	1,343
Economically Active	24,002	20,761	2,128	1,112
Economic Activity Rate (%)	84.0	83.8	87.0	82.8
In employment	22,984	19,907	2,013	1,064
Employment rate (%)	80.5	80.3	82.3	79.2
ILO unemployed	1,018	854	116	48
Unemployment rate (%)	4.2	4.1	5.4	4.4
Economic inactivity	4,565	4,017	317	231

Source: Labour Force Survey

Base: All people of working age (men 16-64, women 16-59)

Table 3: Disabled people by age and ethnic group

Great Britain, spring 2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted.

(Thousands and per cent)

	All aged 16-59/64	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59/64
All disabled	6,808 100%	606	901	2,329	2,972
White	6,260 92%	552	813	2,093	2,803
Mixed	49 0.7%	13	11	18	*
Asian and Asian British	281 4.1%	20	45	112	105
Black and Black British	122 1.8%	14	20	60	27
Chinese	14 0.2%	*	*	*	*
Other ethnic minority groups	75 1.1%	*	*	40	22

(Per cent)

	All aged 16-59/64 = 100%	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59/64
All disabled	6,808	8.9	13.2	34.2	43.7
White	6,260	8.8	13.0	33.4	44.8
Mixed	49	27.8	22.2	36.3	13.7
Asian and Asian British	281	7.0	15.9	40.0	37.2
Black and Black British	122	11.8	16.7	49.0	22.5
Chinese	14	*	*	*	*
Other ethnic minority group	75	*	*	53.4	29.7

Source: Labour Force Survey

* Sample size too small for a reliable estimate

Table 4: Highest Qualification attained and employment rates of disabled and not disabled people

Great Britain, spring 2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted.

(Thousands and per cent)

	Disabled		Not disabled	
	Numbers (000s)	Employment rate (%)	Thousands	Employment rate (%)
Total¹	6,808	50.1	28,566	80.5
Degree or equivalent	728	75.5	5,531	89.7
Higher education	520	71.0	2,469	88.4
GCE A Level or equivalent	1,387	59.4	6,971	82.2
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	1,356	55.8	6,754	78.8
Other qualifications	1,029	47.2	3,460	77.7
No qualification	1,745	23.1	3,144	61.7

1 – The numbers in this column do not add up to the total as there is a small proportion of disabled people for whom highest qualification is not known.

Table 5: Proportion of disabled and non disabled people with no qualifications by age group

Great Britain, spring 2005, not seasonally adjusted.

(Thousands and per cent)

	All aged 16-59/64	16-24	25-34	35-49	50-59/64
All persons	4,889 14	851 13	616 8	1,510 12	1,912 22
Long-term disabled	1,745 26	137 23	141 16	527 23	941 32
Not disabled	3,144 11	714 12	476 7	983 10	971 17

Table 6: Employment and unemployment rates by main type of impairment: Great Britain, spring 2005

(Thousands and per cent)

	Number with this as main disability (% of all disabled)	Number in employment and employment rate (% of total)	ILO unemployed and unemployment rate (%)	Number on state benefits and not in work (% of total)
All long-term disabled in GB	6,808 19	3,409 50	281 8	2,439
Problems with ...arms, hands¹	401 6	216 54	14 6	131
...legs, feet	727 11	350 48	28 8	295
...back, neck	1,107 16	530 48	39 7	424
Difficulty in seeing	109 2	48 54	* 11	42
Difficulty in hearing	97 1	60 62	* *	20
Speech impediment	* *	* *	* *	* *
Skin conditions, allergies	105 2	68 65	* *	15
Chest, breathing problems	756 11	485 64	39 8	169
Heart, blood pressure	788 12	450 57	25 5	221
Stomach, liver, kidney, digestion	347 5	197 56	11 5	101
Diabetes	391 6	263 67	14 5	69
Mental illness	699 10	141 20	41 22	469
Epilepsy	142 2	75 53	* 7	52
Learning difficulties	184 3	46 25	12 21	106
Progressive illness n.e.c.²	340 5	149 44	* *	151
Other problems, disabilities	565 8	308 55	25 7	172

¹ including arthritis or rheumatism.

² Progressive illness not elsewhere classified (e.g. cancer, multiple sclerosis, symptomatic HIV, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy)

Table 7: Employment and unemployment rates of disabled people by region

Great Britain, spring 2005, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

	Total number of disabled (000s) and as a per cent of local population	In employment (000s) and employment rate (%)	ILO unemployed and unemployment rate	On state benefits¹ and not in work (000s and as % of total)
All long-term disabled	6,808 19	3,409 50	281 8	2,459 36
North East	373 24	149 40	16 10	163 44
North West & Merseyside	869 21	393 45	31 7	377 43
Yorkshire and the Humber	625 21	312 50	24 7	226 36
East Midlands	515 20	272 53	22 7	171 33
West Midlands	623 24	304 49	26 8	230 37
East	539 16	316 59	21 6	142 26
London	782 16	332 42	45 12	329 42
South East	844 17	516 61	34 6	206 24
South West	554 19	323 58	22 6	156 28
Wales	405 23	175 43	10 5	180 44
Scotland	678 22	319 47	29 8	279 41

Source: Labour Force Survey

¹ This includes state pension, allowances or National Insurance credits, and excludes child benefit.

Table 8: Disabled people in employment by occupation

Great Britain, spring 2005, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

	Total	Disabled	Not disabled
All in employment	27,429	3,666	23,763
	100	100	100
Managers and Senior Officials	4,088	489	3,559
	15	13	15
Professional occupations	3,446	388	3,058
	13	11	13
Associate Professional and Technical	3,827	458	3,369
	14	13	14
Administrative and Secretarial	3,441	497	2,815
	13	14	12
Skilled Trades Occupations	3,074	415	2,945
	11	11	12
Personal Service Occupations	2,124	319	1,805
	8	9	8
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	2,167	274	1,893
	8	8	8
Process Plant and Machine Operatives	2,050	326	1,724
	8	9	7
Elementary Occupations	3,152	489	2,664
	11	13	11

Table 9: Disabled people in employment by industry sector

Great Britain, spring 2005 LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

	Total	Disabled	Not disabled
All in Employment (000s)	27,429 100	3,666 100	23,763 100
Agriculture & fishing	351 1%	54 1%	297 1%
Energy & water	272 1%	27 0.7%	245 1%
Manufacturing	3,629 13%	475 13%	3,154 13%
Construction	2,130 8%	292 8%	1,838 8%
Distribution hotels & restaurants	5,367 20%	686 19%	4,681 20%
Transport & communication	1,895 7%	262 7%	1,633 7%
Banking finance & insurance etc	4,330 16%	514 14%	3,816 16%
Public admin education & health	7,738 28%	1,115 30%	6,622 28%
Other services	1,652 6%	228 7%	1,424 6%

Source: Labour Force Survey

Table 10: Labour market status of disabled people and benefit¹ receipt

Great Britain, spring 2005 LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

	All disabled		Not disabled	
	Number	% of total population	Number	% of total population
Total number	6,808	100	28,566	100
IN WORK				
Total number	3,409	50.1	22,984	80.5
Not on state benefits	2,453	36.0	17,478	61.2
Receiving state benefits	433	6.4	1,166	4.1
...Receiving sickness/disability benefits	206	3.0	81	0.3
...Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)	64	0.9	12	0.0
NOT IN WORK				
Total number	3,398	49.9	5,583	19.5
Not on state benefits	664	10.0	3,153	11.0
Receiving state benefits	2,472	36.3	1,218	5.3
...and would like work	884	13.0	707	2.5
...and available for work	312	4.6	513	1.8
...and would not like work	1,588	23.0	511	1.8
Receiving sickness/disability benefits	1,847	27.0	164	0.6
...and would like work	575	8.4	62	0.2
...and available for work	136	2.0	23	0.1
...and would not like work	1,272	18.7	102	0.4
Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)	1,234	18.0	42	0.1
...and would like work	396	5.8	22	0.1
...and available for work	93	1.4	10	0.04
...and would not like work	838	12.3	21	0.1

¹ This includes state pensions, allowances or National Insurance credits, and excludes child benefit.

Time Series 1998-2005 LFS data

Table A: Economic status of disabled people in Britain

Spring quarters 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(thousands and per cent)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All disabled	5,979	6,295	6,472	6,515	6,655	6,730	6,796	6,808
Economically Active	2,918	3,244	3,357	3,344	3,482	3,585	3,668	3,691
Economic Activity Rate (%)	48.8	51.5	51.9	51.3	52.3	53.3	54.0	54.2
In employment	2,593	2,904	3,017	3,073	3,185	3,294	3,450	3,409
Employment rate (%)	43.4	46.1	46.6	47.2	47.9	48.9	50.1	50.1
ILO unemployed	325	340	341	272	297	291	263	281
Unemployment rate (%)	11.1	10.5	10.2	8.1	8.5	8.1	7.2	7.6
Economic inactivity	3,060	3,051	3,114	3,170	3,173	3,144	3,128	3,117
Not disabled	28,269	28,079	28,067	28,241	28,292	28,363	28,441	28,566
Economically Active	23,788	23,707	23,831	23,869	23,910	23,945	23,961	24,002
Economic Activity Rate (%)	84.1	84.4	84.9	84.5	84.5	84.4	84.2	84.0
In employment	22,462	22,422	22,665	22,835	22,796	22,881	22,917	22,984
Employment rate (%)	79.5	79.9	80.8	80.9	80.6	80.7	80.6	80.5
ILO unemployed	1,326	1,285	1,166	1,034	1,114	1,064	1,044	1,018
Unemployment rate (%)	5.6	5.4	4.9	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.2
Economic inactivity	4,481	4,372	4,236	4,371	4,382	4,418	4,480	4,565

Table A.1: Economic status of disabled and non disabled people of working age; ENGLAND

Spring quarters 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

England	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All Disabled	5,008	5,305	5,459	5,514	5,638	5,692	5,726	5,724
Economically Active	2,531	2,813	2,934	2,925	3,054	3,087	3,141	3,158
Economic Activity Rate (%)	50.5	53.0	53.7	53.0	54.2	54.2	54.9	55.2
In employment	2,257	2,530	2,645	2,695	2,806	2,841	2,927	2,916
Employment rate (%)	45.1	47.7	48.5	48.9	49.8	49.9	51.1	50.9
ILO unemployed	274	283	289	230	248	246	214	242
Unemployment rate (%)	10.8	10.1	9.8	7.9	8.1	8.0	6.8	7.7
Economic inactivity	2,477	2,492	2,525	2,589	2,584	2,605	2,585	2,566
Not disabled	24,412	24,239	24,245	24,394	24,449	24,535	24,641	24,778
Economically Active	20,536	20,496	20,567	20,618	20,633	20,671	20,694	20,761
Economic Activity Rate (%)	84.1	84.6	84.8	84.5	84.4	84.3	84.0	83.8
In employment	19,421	19,422	19,611	19,756	19,712	19,754	19,812	19,907
Employment rate (%)	79.6	80.1	80.9	81.0	80.6	80.5	80.4	80.3
ILO unemployed	1,115	1,074	956	862	921	917	882	854
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	5.2	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.1
Economic inactivity	3,876	3,744	3,679	3,776	239	3,864	3,947	4,017

Table A.2: Economic status of disabled and non disabled people of working age; SCOTLAND

Spring quarters 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and Per cent)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All disabled	584	590	609	613	614	633	653	678
Economically Active	244	259	262	273	262	307	330	348
Economic Activity Rate (%)	41.8	43.9	43.0	44.5	42.6	48.6	50.5	51.3
In employment	208	221	227	245	229	277	300	319
Employment rate (%)	35.7	37.5	37.2	39.9	37.3	43.8	45.9	47.0
ILO unemployed	35	38	35	28	33	31	30	29
Unemployment rate (%)	14.5	14.6	13.4	10.3	12.5	9.9	9.1	8.4
Economic inactivity	340	331	347	340	352	325	323	330
Not disabled	2,536	2,529	2,508	2,510	2,514	2,494	2,473	2,445
Economically Active	2,162	2,128	2,161	2,157	2,187	2,146	2,139	2,128
Economic Activity Rate (%)	85.2	84.1	86.2	85.9	87.0	86.0	86.5	87.0
In employment	2,019	1,987	2,011	2,043	2,053	2,043	2,020	2,013
Employment rate (%)	79.6	78.6	80.2	81.4	81.7	81.9	81.7	82.3
ILO unemployed	142	141	150	114	134	103	119	116
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6	6.6	6.9	5.3	6.1	4.8	5.5	5.4
Economic inactivity	375	401	243	353	327	348	334	317

Table A.3: Economic status of disabled and non disabled people of working age; WALES

Spring quarters 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

Wales	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All disabled	388	400	404	388	404	405	418	405
Economically Active	144	172	162	147	167	191	197	185
Economic Activity Rate (%)	37.1	43.1	40.0	37.8	41.3	47.1	47.2	45.6
In employment	128	153	145	133	150	176	179	175
Employment rate (%)	33.0	38.4	35.9	34.2	37.2	43.4	42.7	43.1
ILO unemployed	16	19	17	14	16	15	19	10
Unemployment rate (%)	11.0	10.9	10.4	9.5	9.8	7.8	9.5	5.4
Economic inactivity	244	228	242	241	237	214	221	221
Not disabled	1,320	1,311	1,314	1,336	1,329	1,334	1,326	1,343
Economically Active	1,090	1,083	1,104	1,094	1,091	1,128	1,128	1,112
Economic Activity Rate (%)	82.6	82.7	84.0	81.9	82.0	84.5	85.1	82.8
In employment	1,022	1,013	1,043	1,036	1,031	1,084	1,085	1,064
Employment rate (%)	77.5	77.3	79.4	77.6	77.6	81.2	81.8	79.2
ILO unemployed	68	70	61	58	59	44	44	48
Unemployment rate (%)	6.2	6.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	3.9	3.9	4.4
Economic inactivity	230	227	210	242	239	206	198	231

Table B: Highest Qualifications held by disabled and non disabled people, Great Britain

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(thousands)

Disabled	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	5,979	6,295	6,472	6,515	6,655	6,730	6,796	6,808
Degree or equivalent	389	456	535	519	583	624	672	728
Higher education	422	439	446	447	465	499	506	520
GCE A Level or equivalent	1,250	1,313	1,337	1,379	1,423	1,436	1,468	1,387
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	964	1,050	1,115	1,156	1,235	1,257	1,255	1,356
Other qualifications	988	1,057	1,047	1,038	1,047	1,081	1,019	1,029
No qualification	1,928	1,930	1,940	1,945	1,868	1,801	1,842	1,745
Don't know	38	49	51	31	33	32	29	43
Not disabled	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	28,269	28,079	28,067	28,241	28,292	28,363	28,441	28,566
Degree or equivalent	3,993	4,325	4,537	4,757	4,895	5,056	5,375	5,531
Higher education	2,474	2,442	2,443	2,445	2,393	2,492	2,544	2,469
GCE A Level or equivalent	6,664	6,734	6,799	6,874	7,031	6,954	6,954	6,971
GCSE grades A-C or equivalent	6,651	6,492	6,509	6,551	6,481	6,426	6,303	6,754
Other qualifications	4,088	3,924	3,807	3,759	3,694	3,786	3,755	3,460
No qualification	4,157	3,875	3,659	3,651	3,588	3,442	3,323	3,144
Don't know	230	277	299	186	193	190	140	213

Table D: Type of broad impairment category reported by disabled people of working age in Britain

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	5,979	6,295	6,472	6,515	6,655	6,730	6,796	6,808
Musculo-skeletal	2,296	2,363	2,326	2,296	2,305	2,338	2,259	2,236
Sensory	245	252	239	232	239	226	249	214
Circulation or digestive problems	876	988	1,061	1,055	1,098	1,102	1,118	1,134
Chest, Breathing problems, skin conditions or allergies	978	1,027	1,012	947	939	963	926	860
Diabetes	237	263	291	317	320	335	367	391
Mental health	473	472	508	561	592	608	662	699
Learning difficulties	127	145	149	137	157	160	163	184
Other	735	766	882	949	979	957	1,015	1,047

(Per cent)

<i>Total (%)</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
Musculo-skeletal	38.4	37.5	35.9	35.2	34.6	34.7	33.2	32.8
Sensory	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.1
Circulation or digestive problems	14.7	15.7	16.4	16.2	16.5	16.4	16.4	16.7
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	16.4	16.3	15.6	14.5	14.1	14.3	13.6	12.6
Diabetes	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.9	4.8	5.0	5.4	5.7
Mental health	7.9	7.5	7.9	8.6	8.9	9.0	9.7	10.3
Learning difficulties	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.7
Other	12.3	12.2	13.6	14.6	14.7	14.2	14.9	15.4

Table D.1: Type of broad impairment category reported by disabled people of working age in ENGLAND

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands)

England	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	5,008	5,305	5,459	5,514	5,638	5,692	5,726	5,724
Musculo-skeletal	1,929	1,995	1,966	1,927	1,955	1,984	1,898	1,894
Sensory	206	215	204	201	208	197	215	182
Circulation or digestive problems	729	806	893	892	941	921	926	950
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	829	883	862	812	797	813	787	716
Diabetes	203	227	253	277	277	286	313	334
Mental health	369	388	405	469	473	501	546	570
Learning difficulties	115	123	123	110	132	136	141	158
Other	618	651	752	808	833	817	870	881

Per cent

Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Musculo-skeletal	38.5	37.6	36.0	34.9	34.7	34.8	33.1	33.1
Sensory	4.1	4.1	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.8	3.2
Circulation or digestive problems	14.6	15.2	16.4	16.2	16.7	16.2	16.2	16.6
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	16.6	16.6	15.8	14.7	14.1	14.3	13.7	12.5
Diabetes	4.1	4.3	4.6	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.5	5.8
Mental health	7.4	7.3	7.4	8.5	8.4	8.8	9.5	10.0
Learning difficulties	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.8
Other	12.3	12.3	13.8	14.7	14.8	14.4	15.2	15.4

Table D.2: Type of broad impairment category reported by disabled people of working age in SCOTLAND

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands)

Scotland	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	584	590	609	613	614	633	653	678
Musculo-skeletal	208	207	200	212	196	206	212	208
Sensory	24	21	24	18	20	16	20	19
Circulation or digestive problems	89	105	100	104	95	110	121	115
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	89	88	96	85	91	95	87	91
Diabetes	19	24	25	29	25	30	30	38
Mental health	66	53	63	55	76	63	73	83
Learning difficulties	8	14	17	18	14	16	11	14
Other	78	79	84	90	94	94	94	108

(Per cent)

Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Musculo-skeletal	35.6	35.0	32.8	34.6	31.9	32.6	32.5	30.6
Sensory	4.2	3.6	3.9	3.0	3.2	2.5	3.0	2.8
Circulation or digestive problems	15.3	17.7	16.4	17.0	15.5	17.3	18.5	17.0
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	15.2	14.9	15.8	13.9	14.8	15.1	13.3	13.4
Diabetes	3.3	4.0	4.2	4.7	4.1	4.7	4.6	5.6
Mental health	11.3	9.0	10.4	9.0	12.3	10.0	11.2	12.2
Learning difficulties	1.4	2.4	2.8	2.9	2.3	2.5	1.7	2.1
Other	13.4	13.3	13.8	14.7	15.3	14.9	14.4	15.9

Table D.3 Type of broad impairment category reported by disabled people of working age in WALES

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands)

Wales	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	388	400	404	388	404	405	418	405
Musculo-skeletal	160	161	161	157	154	149	149	134
Sensory	14	15	12	13	11	13	14	13
Circulation or digestive problems	58	77	68	59	62	71	71	69
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	60	56	54	50	51	55	52	54
Diabetes	14	12	13	11	19	19	24	19
Mental health	38	31	40	38	43	44	42	45
Learning difficulties	3	8	10	9	10	8	10	11
Other	39	36	46	50	52	46	51	58

Per cent

Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Musculo-skeletal	41.2	40.4	39.8	40.4	38.2	36.7	35.7	33.1
Sensory	3.7	3.8	2.9	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.2
Circulation or digestive problems	15.0	19.2	16.9	15.2	15.4	17.6	17.0	17.0
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	15.6	14.0	13.4	12.8	12.6	13.5	12.4	13.3
Diabetes	3.6	3.1	3.2	2.9	4.6	4.6	5.8	4.7
Mental health	9.8	7.8	9.8	9.7	10.8	10.9	10.1	11.2
Learning difficulties	0.9	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.8
Other	9.9	9.0	11.5	13.0	12.9	11.4	12.2	14.2

Table E Employment Rates of broad impairment category. Great Britain

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	43.3	46.1	46.6	47.2	47.9	48.9	50.1	50.1
Musculo-skeletal	42.3	44.9	44.4	45.1	44.8	47.4	48.9	49.0
Sensory	53.4	55.3	57.5	55.4	52.3	49.8	58.9	55.5
Circulation or digestive problems	52.9	47.1	47.6	50.6	53.0	53.6	56.6	57.0
Chest, Breathing problems, skin problems or allergies	46.1	59.0	61.5	62.0	64.3	65.2	63.4	64.2
Diabetes	62.9	65.5	68.0	61.7	64.2	65.4	66.0	67.2
Mental health	14.6	15.9	18.3	19.5	18.6	19.9	20.1	20.2
Learning difficulties	21.5	23.2	24.8	23.9	21.7	29.2	32.0	25.0
Other	42.1	45.0	44.4	47.1	49.5	47.1	48.8	50.8

Table F: Disabled population of working age by region, Great Britain

Spring 1998-2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands)

All Disabled	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	5,979	6,295	6,472	6,515	6,655	6,730	6,796	6,808
North East	367	369	339	344	369	383	381	373
North West and Merseyside	818	806	840	832	866	831	845	869
Yorkshire and Humberside	552	595	595	628	617	612	614	625
East Midlands	413	449	436	448	470	485	507	515
West Midlands	544	606	664	644	629	639	641	623
Eastern	480	497	546	534	563	563	545	539
London	680	728	741	790	793	808	778	782
South East	681	755	749	787	775	798	855	844
South West	473	501	548	508	555	573	558	554
Wales	388	400	404	388	404	405	418	405
Scotland	584	590	609	613	614	633	653	678

(Per cent)

All Disabled	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	5,979	6,295	6,472	6,515	6,655	6,730	6,796	6,808
North East	6.1	5.9	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.7	5.6	5.5
North West and Merseyside	13.7	12.8	13.0	12.8	13.0	12.3	12.4	12.8
Yorkshire and Humberside	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.6	9.3	9.1	9.0	9.2
East Midlands	6.9	7.1	6.7	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.5	7.6
West Midlands	9.1	9.6	10.3	9.9	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.2
Eastern	8.0	7.9	8.4	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.0	7.9
London	11.4	11.6	11.5	12.1	11.9	12.0	11.5	11.5
South East	11.4	12.0	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.9	12.6	12.4
South West	7.9	8.0	8.5	7.8	8.3	8.5	8.2	8.1
Wales	6.5	6.4	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.0
Scotland	9.8	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.4	9.6	10.0

Table G: Employment rates for disabled and non-disabled people by region, Great Britain

Spring 1998 -2005, LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Per cent)

All Disabled	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
GB Total	43.4	46.1	46.6	47.2	47.9	48.9	50.1	50.1
North East	35.5	33.9	34.8	36.6	37.3	40.7	37.9	40.1
North West (inc Merseyside)	34.9	37.9	40.5	41.9	41.9	44.6	44.6	45
Yorkshire and Humberside	41.0	45.6	45.6	45.1	46.1	49.4	50.4	49.9
East Midlands	48.0	48.3	50.8	49.8	49.8	51.0	52.1	52.8
West Midlands	43.8	46.7	47.3	46.1	49.4	56.2	59.9	48.7
Eastern	54.4	53.5	54.2	55.1	57.9	56.2	59.9	58.6
London	41.1	44.6	43.3	45.9	46.1	42.7	45.0	42.2
South East	56.1	59.7	60.5	61.3	60.5	58.8	60.9	61.1
South West	53.9	57.2	56.4	54.9	56.6	56.8	56.1	58.3
Wales	33.0	38.4	35.9	34.2	37.2	43.4	42.7	43.1
Scotland	35.7	37.5	37.2	39.9	37.3	43.8	45.9	47.0

(Per cent)

Not disabled	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total	79.5	79.9	80.8	80.9	80.6	80.7	80.6	80.5
North East	76.2	74.6	76.4	77.3	78.0	76.8	79.2	79.3
North West (inc Merseyside)	77.8	79.0	80.8	80.6	79.8	80.6	80.6	80.4
Yorkshire and Humberside	78.7	78.8	80.1	80.4	79.3	79.9	80.4	79.9
East Midlands	81.7	81.9	82.2	80.9	82.2	81.5	82.7	81.8
West Midlands	79.9	79.8	79.7	81.0	80.0	80.1	79.6	80.8
Eastern	81.7	82.3	83.0	84.3	83.3	83.0	82.6	82.4
London	74.7	76.5	76.4	76.0	75.6	75.4	75.1	74.5
South East	82.5	83.2	84.0	83.7	83.5	83.2	81.8	82.2
South West	82.3	82.3	83.6	83.7	83.9	83.4	83.4	83.7
Wales	77.5	77.3	79.4	77.6	77.6	81.2	81.8	79.2
Scotland	79.6	78.6	80.2	81.4	81.7	81.9	81.7	82.3

Table H: Labour market status and benefit receipt for disabled and non-disabled people, Great Britain

Spring 1998 – 2005 (excluding 2003 as unavailable), LFS, not seasonally adjusted

(Thousands and per cent)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	03	2004	2005
All disabled	5,979	6,295	6,472	6,515	6,655	-	6,796	6,808
IN WORK								
Total number	2,593	2,904	3,017	3,073	3,185	-	3,405	3,409
Not on state benefits	2,175	2,533	2,622	2,299	2,266	-	2,461	2,453
Receiving state benefits	313	371	393	445	507	-	438	433
...Receiving sickness/ disability benefits	167	194	194	198	198	-	202	206
...Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)	44	51	49	48	52	-	70	64
NOT IN WORK								
Total number	3,386	3,391	3,455	3,442	3,470	-	3,392	3,398
Not on benefits	813	806	837	662	643	-	673	664
Receiving state benefits	2,387	2,578	2,613	2,611	2,596	-	2,463	2,472
...and would like work	1,015	1,105	1,139	1,019	1,051	-	875	884
...and available to start	365	381	395	337	350	-	290	312
...and would not like work	1,373	1,473	1,474	1,592	1,545	-	1,588	1,588
Receiving sickness/disability benefits	1,761	1,907	1,897	1,894	1,907	-	1,852	1,847
...and would like work	643	702	713	638	673	-	579	575
...and available to start	130	128	136	132	135	-	127	136
...and would not like work	1,118	1,205	1,184	1,255	1,234	-	1,272	1,272
Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)	1,249	1,340	1,294	1,278	1,290	-	1,224	1,234
...and would like work	468	513	499	458	465	-	397	396
...and available to start	88	84	81	79	89	-	80	93
...and would not like work	781	827	795	819	825	-	827	838

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Not disabled	28,269	28,079	28,067	28,241	28,292	-	28,441	28,566
IN WORK								
Total number	22,462	22,422	22,665	22,835	22,796	-	22,917	22,984
Not on state benefits	20,671	21,476	21,617	18,311	17,406	-	17,576	17,478
Receiving state benefits	813	936	1,042	1,301	1,982	-	1,154	1,166
...Receiving sickness/ disability benefits	100	115	114	104	120	-	89	81
...Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)	12	12	*	10	*	-	12	12
NOT IN WORK								
Total number	5,806	5,657	5,402	5,405	5,496	-	5,524	5,583
Not on state benefits	3,811	3,885	3,714	2,939	2,938	-	3,062	3,153
Receiving state benefits	1,668	1,756	1,670	1,544	1,476	-	1,263	1,218
...and would like work	1,189	1,208	1,093	963	933	-	754	707
...and available to start in next 2 weeks	898	908	802	682	669	-	556	513
...and would not like work	479	548	577	582	543	-	509	511
...Receiving sickness/ disability benefits	158	196	184	181	174	-	164	164
...and would like work	78	87	77	72	74	-	65	62
...and available to start	29	33	26	26	24	-	29	23
...and would not like work	80	109	107	109	101	-	99	102
...Receiving Incapacity Benefit (IB)	44	44	33	42	41	-	46	42
...and would like work	27	27	18	27	23	-	27	22
...and available to start	13	13	*	*	*	-	15	10
...and would not like work	17	17	14	15	18	-	19	21

NOTE: To ensure continuity in the data over time, all benefits data included in this table excludes people on child benefits, as child benefit recipients were only included in the LFS benefit variable from 2001

Table I: Average gross hourly pay (£) for disabled and not disabled employees

Spring 1998- 2005 LFS, not seasonally adjusted, Great Britain

(£)

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
All Disabled	6.81	7.36	7.68	8.4	8.8	9.1	9.37	9.88
Men	7.79	8.22	8.63	9.44	9.75	10.21	10.5	10.97
Women	5.8	6.44	6.6	7.24	7.76	7.9	8.19	8.77
Not disabled	7.94	8.32	8.78	9.21	9.56	9.91	10.39	10.85
Men	9.05	9.49	9.98	10.41	10.76	11.12	11.73	12.07
Women	6.72	7.03	7.47	7.9	8.28	8.62	8.96	9.55
% GAP	14.2	11.5	12.5	8.8	7.9	8.2	9.8	9.8

Section 2: Latest disability estimates from the Family Resources Survey (FRS) 2003/4

The following set of tabulations provide the latest available estimates for disabled adults and disabled children from the 2003/4 Family Resources Survey (FRS), including breakdowns by region, age group, gender and ethnicity.

DWP Notes for users of the FRS data

1. This estimate covers 'the number of people with a long-standing illness, disability or infirmity, and who have a significant difficulty with day-to-day activities'. It is based on data taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS).
2. Everyone in this group would meet the definition of disability in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA); however, these estimates do not reflect the total number of people covered by the DDA as the FRS does not collect this information.
3. The figures are estimates based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to sampling variation. Caution should be exercised in the interpretation of small year-on-year fluctuations and identification of trends should be based on several years of data.
4. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining response bias.
5. **Spending power**, estimated using data from the FRS, is defined as 'Income from all sources received by an individual including including earnings, tax credits, investments and occupational pensions/annuities, benefit income (including child benefit and income related benefits), and income from other sources (including maintenance income from an absent partner paid in respect of either spouse or children)'.

- a. **less** income tax payments and National Insurance contributions
- b. **plus** Housing Benefit/Council Tax Benefit payments, apportioned across household adults where appropriate
- c. **plus** income from letting or sub-letting, apportioned across household adults where appropriate
- d. **less** housing costs, apportioned across household adults where appropriate

Disabled adults (including people with limiting long standing illness) in Britain

In the Family Resources Survey (FRS) an adult is defined as all those aged 16 and over, except for 16 to 18 year olds in full time non-advanced education.

Disabled Adults in Britain by Region

	Millions	Percent
Britain	9.5	21%
North East	0.5	27%
North West and Merseyside	1.3	24%
Yorkshire and Humber	0.9	24%
East Midlands	0.7	21%
West Midlands	0.8	20%
Eastern	0.9	20%
London	0.9	16%
South East	1.1	18%
South West	0.8	20%
Wales	0.7	28%
Scotland	0.9	24%

Source: Family Resources Survey, 2003-04. Great Britain

Disabled adults (including people with limiting long standing illness) by Age

Age (years)	Millions	Percent
All adults aged 16+	9.5	21%
16-24	0.4	8%
25-34	0.7	8%
35-44	1.1	12%
45-54	1.4	20%
55-64	1.9	29%
65+	4.2	45%

Source: Family Resources Survey 2003-04. Great Britain

Disabled adults (including people with a limiting long standing illness) by gender

	Millions	Percent
All	9.5	21%
Male	4.4	20%
Female	5.1	23%

Source: Family Resources Survey 2003-04. Great Britain

Disabled adults (including people with limiting long standing illness) by ethnic group

	Millions	Percent
All	9.5	21%
White	8.9	22%
Non White	0.5	14%

Source: Family Resources Survey 2003-04. Great Britain

Disabled Children/Young people (including those with a limiting long standing illness)

In the Family Resources Survey (FRS) a **child** is defined as someone aged under 16, and aged 16 to 18 year olds who is in full-time non advanced education and living at home.

Disabled Children/Young People (including those with a limiting long standing illness) by Region

	Millions	Percent
Britain	0.7	5%
North East	-	6%
North West and Merseyside	0.1	5%
Yorkshire and Humber	-	4%
East Midlands	0.1	7%
West Midlands	0.1	6%
Eastern	0.1	5%
London	0.1	4%
South East	0.1	5%
South West	0.1	6%
Wales	0.1	7%
Scotland	0.1	6%

Source: Family Resources Survey, 2003-04. Great Britain

Disabled Children/young People (including those with a limiting long standing illness), by Age

Age (years)	Millions	Percent
All	0.7	5%
Less than 5	0.1	3%
5 to less than 12	0.3	6%
12 to less than 19	0.3	6%

Source: Family Resources Survey 2003-04. Great Britain

Disabled Children/young People (including those with a limiting long standing illness), by gender

	Millions	Percent
All	0.7	5%
Male	0.4	7%
Female	0.3	4%

Source: Family Resources Survey 2002-03. Great Britain

Section 3 DRC Research Project Update

Research study on the experiences of disabled students and their families – Phase 2

The second phase of the research project on the experiences of disabled students and their families commenced in August 2005. This project builds on the findings from Phase One and aims at providing authoritative evidence on the experiences of young disabled people and their parents in Britain in relation to education. Fieldwork on the experiences of young disabled people and their families in 4 focal regions across Britain began in January 2006. These case studies seek to address the issues of choices and independence; understanding of rights; getting to school and other places, social attitudes and the future plans of these young disabled people.

Survey of parents and carers of disabled children and young people in Britain

A postal and web survey is conducted to obtain authoritative evidence about the experiences and concerns of parents/carers regarding the educational experiences (particularly within schools/colleges) of their disabled children. Information relating to parents'/ carers' awareness of relevant policies and legislation, notably the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) Part 4 duties is also collected. Attempts are being made to reach parents of disabled children who may not be identified within the school system as having SEN. The design of the study will allow comparisons between parents of disabled children in special (including independent special) and mainstream schools.

A final report containing findings from both studies is expected to be available in **January 2007**.

Appendix 1 Technical Note

The Labour Force Survey Questions on Disability

The focus of and number of questions in the health and disability module of the LFS changed in the spring 1997 to reflect the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). Since spring 1997 all working age LFS respondents have been asked:

- Do you have any health problems or disabilities that you expect will last more than a year?
If they answer 'yes' to this question, they are also asked to say what kind(s) of health problem or disability(ies) they have, based on a list read to them by the interviewer.

If they then answer '**yes**' to the following question:

- Does this (do these) health problem(s) or disability(ies) (when taken singly or together) substantially limit your ability to carry out normal day to day activities?

OR

- They said that they had the following health problems: progressive illnesses not included elsewhere (e.g. cancer, multiple sclerosis, symptomatic HIV, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy)

Then they are defined as having **a current DDA disability**.

People whose health problem(s) or disability(ies) are expected to last more than a year are also asked the following questions:

- 'Does this health problem affect the KIND of work that you might do?'
- '..... or the AMOUNT of paid work you might do?'

If the respondent fulfils either of these criteria they are defined as having a **work-limiting disability**.

Those people who meet the criteria for either current DDA or work-limiting definitions of disability (or both – as is usually the case) are defined as having **a current long-term disability**.

Appendix 2 LFS Impairment/Health problem classification

We thought it might be useful to include notes used by the LFS when asking questions on different health problem/impairment, in order to clarify for users what is included in each of the LFS impairment categories. For further information, please see Labour Force Survey User Guide Volume 3 on http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/LFSUG_Vol3_2003.pdf

Difficulty in seeing - should not be considered a disability if it is effectively compensated for by wearing glasses or contact lenses.

Difficulty in hearing - should be considered without the use of a hearing aid

Severe disfigurement - excludes those arising from tattooing or body piercing but would include scars, birthmarks, limb or postural deformation or disease of the skin.

Chest or breathing problem, asthma, bronchitis - excludes hay fever (seasonal allergic rhinitis) except where it aggravates the effects of an existing condition

Learning difficulties - specific learning difficulties include conditions such as dyslexia or dyscalculia; severe learning difficulties covers mental impairments or mental handicap

Mental illness - includes a wide range of conditions related to mental functioning but should be a clinically well recognised illness. Mental illness that should not be included are; the tendency to commit arson or to steal, the tendency to physically or sexually abuse others, exhibitionism or voyeurism are not included.

Progressive illness - should be recorded if there is some effect on the respondent's normal day to day activities, even if it is minor

at the time of interview. If the respondent has been diagnosed with a progressive illness, but they are not suffering from any symptoms which affect their activities yet, then they should not be included.

Addiction to or dependency on alcohol, nicotine, drugs or other substance (unless resulting from the substance being prescribed for the respondent) should not be included.

Further information:

If you have any queries relating to the content of this briefing, please contact Breda Twomey by email Breda.Twomey@drc-gb.org.