

DWP And Access To Work

- Access to Work (AtW) is a service offered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- It provides advice and practical support to disabled people and their employers to help overcome work-related obstacles resulting from a disability.

How does it do this?

- As well as giving advice and information to disabled people and employers, AtW pays a grant, through Jobcentre Plus, towards any extra employment costs that result from a disability.
- To be eligible for help through Access to Work, your disability or health condition affecting the type of work you do will be likely to last for 12 months or longer.
- If you have a disability and are in a job, about to start in a job, or are self-employed, AtW could also be available. It applies to any paid job, part-time or full-time, permanent or temporary. To find out if you are eligible for this service, contact the nearest AtW Business Centre.

What type of help can be provided through Access to Work?

AtW can help in a number of ways:

- It can help pay for care needs and for special aids and equipment to help a disabled person function in the work place.
- It can help pay for adaptations to premises or to existing equipment
- It can help with the additional costs of travel to work, or in work for people who are unable to use public transport.

How are particular needs assessed?

- The AtW Adviser will normally speak to the individual and employer to arrive at the most effective solution. In the majority of cases, this can be done over the telephone. However, a visit can be arranged if necessary.
- Sometimes specialist or technical advice may be needed, which the AtW Adviser will help arrange.
- Once assessed, it is usually your employer (or you if you are self-employed) who will arrange to obtain the agreed support and then claim back the grant from AtW.

What costs are covered in an Access to Work grant?

AtW pays a percentage of the total cost of approved support depending on how long the individual has been in employment, what support is needed and the nature of the employment.

For example:

- Access to Work pays up to 100% of the approved costs for:
Unemployed people starting a job; all self-employed people and
Individuals working for an employer, who have been in the job for less than 6 weeks
- AtW pays a proportion of the costs of support for people, working for an employer, who have been in the job for 6 weeks or more and need special equipment or adaptations to premises.

How do I apply for Access to Work?

For further information or to speak to an Access to Work Adviser, contact the nearest AtW Business Centre. Website is www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk.

Regional Offices are listed below.

Midlands	0115 989 5857
West Midlands	0121 255 3434
East of England	01206 288788
London	020 8218 2710
North East	0191 220 8822
North West	01204 516 480
South East	01273 364750
South West	01454 848 500
Yorkshire/Humber	0113 214 2345
Scotland	0141 950 5327
Wales	02920 380 997

Relevant Information

- BackCare Factsheets – Disability rights Commission, Back Care for Drivers
- BackCare Booklets – Back in the Office, Basic Back Care, Managing Back Pain

Relevant Referral

See AtW offices at regional Job Centre Plus locations.