

@AccesStep steps up campaign

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Ian Cook.

This year is the 26th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act, but rail campaigners' continue to question what progress has been made to make trains and buses accessible.

You may have heard about Ian Cook's campaign for Step Free Access across the UK's transport network previously at one of our Zoom Café's or in a previous edition of *the bulletin*, but it is an issue that in 2022 still continues to effect the lives of the polio and much wider disability communities.

You can find the details on how to support his ongoing campaign on his website, social media channels and sign the change.org petition at <http://chnng.it/HGc97Xp9>

Ian has recently sent letters to the leaders of both the UK's largest political parties, Boris Johnson and Sir Keir Starmer, asking them to address these serious issues, as of yet both letters have gone unanswered. All political parties have ignored this for over 50 years now.

"We still need to ask for help to get on and off trains, far too many stations are not accessible. Often, I must take a taxi or a car to get to the nearest accessible station, sometimes 25 miles away."

"Some trains are equipped with level boarding, but new trains are still being built without retractable steps in 2022."

"Platforms need to be standardised and all trains to have retractable steps. This will cost both the train operators and Network Rail a lot of money, but it needs to be done, if this had been started many years ago,

the cost could have been spread over the years and progress would have been made."

"The time for talking is over, it is now time for action."

"In Britain there are a million requests every year for passenger assistance on the railways, according to the Office for Rail and Road."

"Research shows that people with a mobility difficulty each made 10 rail trips on average, compared to 26 for the general population, which is obvious, if we can't get on a train, we can't travel."

"Central government need to prioritise funding to make all public transport 100% accessible to all users. All stations should have step-free access and all vehicles and carriages etc should be fully accessible."

"Please join this campaign @AccesStep where you will find contact information." 



**Why has nothing changed
In 71 years, the gap is the same between
platform and train
We need Level Boarding Now**