

BRITISH COUNCIL OF DISABLED PEOPLE
UK DISABLED PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT (UKDPP)
INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL VOTERS

Can I be a voter to elect members to the first UK Disabled People's Parliament ?

- Any disabled person (which includes people with physical impairments, sensory impairments, learning difficulties and mental health system survivors) who lives in the UK is entitled to vote.
- To prove that you are a disabled person and therefore entitled to a vote, you must be a member of a BCODP member group or an individual member of BCODP. If you are not already a member then you need to become one by 30th June 2003 if you want to vote. Details of BCODP member groups are available on BCODP's website – www.bcodp.org.uk.

How do I register that I want to have my vote ?

- As long as you are a member of a BCODP member group or an individual member of BCODP by 30th June 2003 then you will be eligible to vote.
- You will be entitled to vote only once. If you are a member of more than one BCODP member group then you may end up receiving more than one voting slip. However you can only use one of them, which for security we will ask you to write your name and the group you are a member of on, so that we know that you have voted. Anyone who votes more than once will have all their votes not counted and they may find that the BCODP member group they are a member of may take action against them too.

How can I vote ?

- If there is a need for a vote to be taken in your area, you will get your voting slip sent to you sometime after 18th July 2003. You must cast your vote and then send it back to BCODP, Litchurch Plaza, Litchurch Lane, DERBY, DE24 8AA, so that it arrives no later than 5.00pm on 18th August 2003. Any voting slips which arrive late will not be counted.
- If you have not received your voting slip by 4th August 2003 then please look at BCODP's website – www.bcodp.org.uk – first and if that does not help then contact the BCODP office.

- Your voting slip will have a number of names of candidates from your area on it. You will be told on the voting slip how many people you can vote for. You must vote for the candidates you want by using a “X” next to their names. You can vote for the candidates you want up to the number you are allowed to. If you vote for too many candidates then your votes will not be counted.

What information will I have to help me decide who to vote for ?

- All the candidates are being asked to produce a statement about themselves and why they want you to elect them to the Parliament. This statement will be in a special edition of BCODP’s newsletter Activate, which we hope will be available from 4th July 2003. One copy will be sent free to BCODP member groups, individual members of BCODP and the candidates. It will also be available on BCODP’s website – www.bcodp.org.uk. If you do not receive a copy and would like a paper copy, then you will be able to get one from BCODP, but we will have to charge you £5 to cover our costs.
- Some of the candidates may make public speeches from the European Year bus as it moves around the UK between 2nd June and 2nd July 2003. If you visit the bus then you may hear these speeches. In particular we hope that several candidates may make speeches when the bus turns up at the Mobility Roadshow at Castle Donnington, on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th June 2003.

How will I find out who has been elected ?

- A full list of the results of the election will be available on BCODP’s website – www.bcodp.org.uk – hopefully by 5th September 2003.