

# Disabled people and crime



**An Easy Read version of  
our literature review of  
the research exploring  
disabled victims'  
experiences of the  
criminal justice system**



**Easy  
Read**

# Easy Read



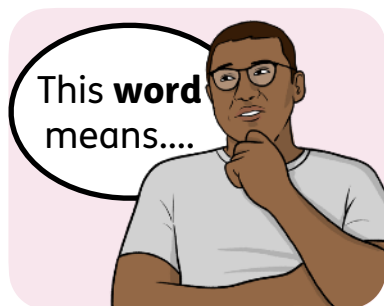
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this booklet

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| About this booklet.....     | 4 |
| What we did .....           | 5 |
| What we found out.....      | 6 |
| What should happen now..... | 7 |
| Find out more.....          | 8 |



You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet:  
<https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey>

# About this booklet



This booklet is from the Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales.



We speak out for **victims** and **witnesses** of crimes.

A **victim** is someone who is harmed or injured because of a crime.

A **witness** is someone who tells the police or court what they know about a crime.



We wanted to find out more about what it was like for disabled people who were victims or witnesses of crimes.



We asked a team of experts to look at reports about the problems disabled people have when they try to get help from the police and courts.



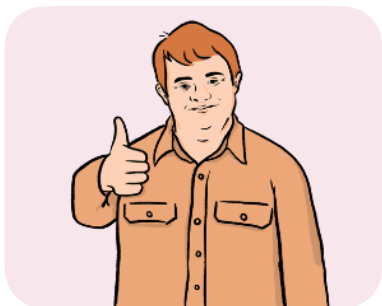
This booklet will tell you about what we did, what we found out, and what we think should happen now.

# What we did



We looked at 35 reports, mostly from the UK.

The reports were about people with:



- Learning disabilities.



- Mental health problems or autism.



- Disabilities in the body.



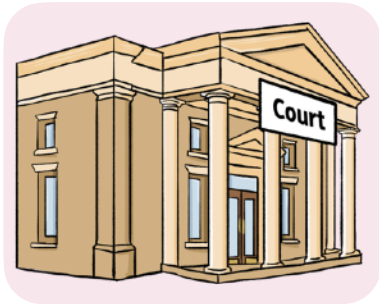
- Deafness.

# What we found out

We found out that there are lots of problems for disabled people who need help from the police or courts, like:



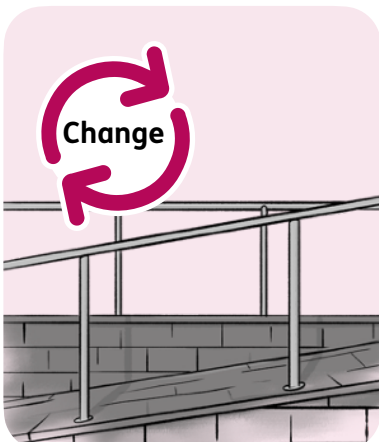
- Staff do not know how to work with and support disabled people.



- The way the courts and police work makes it difficult for disabled people who are victims of crime.



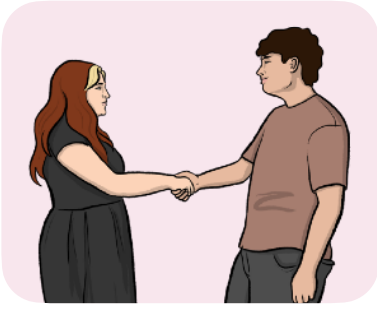
- The police do not always take crimes against disabled people seriously enough.



We also found that the police and courts do not always make **reasonable adjustments** for disabled people.

**Reasonable adjustments** are changes that places and services can make so that disabled people can take part like everybody else.

# What should happen now



The team of experts worked with Stay Safe East and Disability Rights UK to think about what should happen now.

They have some ideas for how to make it better for disabled people who need help from the police or courts, like:



- Giving staff training.



- Checking how the police and courts work to make sure they are fair to disabled people.



We will write to organisations to tell them what they should do.



There needs to be more work to understand what it is like for disabled people who need help from the police or courts.

# Find out more

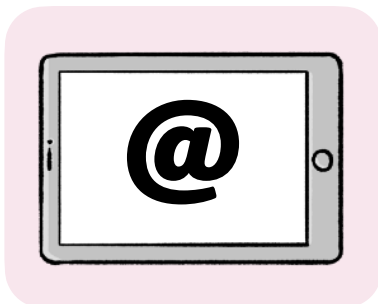


You can look at our website here:  
[www.victimscommissioner.org.uk](http://www.victimscommissioner.org.uk)

You can contact us by:



- Post:  
Office of the Victims' Commissioner  
102 Petty France, 6.41  
London  
SW1H 9AJ



- Email:  
[victims.commissioner@victimscommissioner.org.uk](mailto:victims.commissioner@victimscommissioner.org.uk)

This Easy Read booklet was produced by [easy-read-online.co.uk](http://easy-read-online.co.uk)  
The booklet includes images licensed from Photosymbols & Shutterstock.