 Disabled failed by savage cuts

Coalition treatment is an attack on their human rights

Tories are violating disabled people’s human rights with hated policies such as the Bedroom Tax, a damning report warns today.

The Coalition’s benefit cuts were also blasted for leaving people stranded at home with not enough to live on.

The independent peer, from the All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group, said the UK was once an “international leader in protecting disabled people’s rights”. But she added: “The UK risks sleepwalking towards the status of a systemic violator of these rights.”

Almost two-thirds of people hit by the Bedroom Tax are disabled. It slashes benefits for people in social housing deemed as having a spare room.

But research found it often failed to take into account extra rooms needed for carers or specialist equipment.

The report said Personal Independence Payment, which is replacing Disability Living Allowance and is supposed to help people get out and about, will leave many with not enough cash. A lack of social care funding also made it harder to get help at home.

And the report condemned the Government’s “fit-to-work” drive, which has forced the long-term sick into jobs they are incapable of doing.

Prof Aoife Nolan, trustee of Just Fair, said: “Government policies are now compromising disabled people’s enjoyment of their human rights.”

Tory Minister for Disabled People Mike Penning said: “It is simply not true we are breaching our legal obligations.”

He added: “We spend around £50 billion a year on disabled people and their services and our reforms will make sure the billions spent give more targeted support.”

For the Record

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Disabled people

Bedroom tax attacks those who need room for carer or equipment

Mobility benefit cuts leave people stranded at home with no help

Hated fit-to-work drive pushes long-term sick into jobs they can’t do

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