

- The market has adapted very well to this challenge, there has been a 40 fold increase in supermarket deliveries. Because of this, the role for govt is largely to signpost to available support - for example via gov.uk.
- The minister mentioned the grocery delivery referral service - which enables charities such as SCOPE, RNIB, Age UK and Mind to refer people for supermarket delivery slots. Data protection has slowed some of this work up. DEFRA are trying to roll this out as soon as possible - aiming for 75% coverage by the end of June.
- On volunteering, the minister noted that 128k people are undertaking shopping/ community tasks via the GoodSam app.
- The minister recognised that changes to public health guidance may mean this work ends up supporting a much wider group than initially envisaged.
- **CDL** thanked the minister and teams involved, commenting that the 40 fold increase in supermarket delivery slots was especially notable
- **Lord Agnew** - asked how DEFRA and other departments will adapt the approach to access to food for vulnerable people as we enter Phase 2 of the response and the shielded and non-shielded cohorts change, with an emphasis on how to reduce inefficiency or waste.
- **Welsh Govt** - highlighted that government support the food bank network has been particularly impactful, especially regarding food distribution. **CDL** agreed that foodbanks play a vital role.
- **MHCLG, Chris Pincher** - 2,226,000 shielded people are currently receiving food packages - as this group changes - we need to make sure the NSV offer adapts to consider presently shielded people who may no longer be shielded if guidance changes.

#### **Impact of Covid-19 on People with Disabilities**

- The Minister for Disabled People began by explaining the role of the Disability Unit - based in CO but responsible to DWP, in raising awareness of disability across government and sharing best practice.
- 1 in 5 people in the UK have a disability and most people become disabled during their working lives, as opposed to being born with a disability. There are also big variations across the regions.
- As we move through the response, we need to be cognisant of how the adaptations made during the Covid response and "new normal" feed in to the National Strategy for Disabled People (a PM backed initiative)
- Engagement with stakeholders suggests there is a positive view of the Covid-19 response, especially the pace at which new initiatives had been put in place.
- However this work has highlighted a lack of data across government on disability issues, an example being the DEFRA food supply work which is subject to a data lag.
- The minister highlighted that all departments must work to ensure their communications are accessible to disabled people.
- The minister affirmed that the Covid response presents both risks and opportunities for disabled people - some changes that would have taken years to implement in 'normal times' have been made possible very quickly.
- As we move through the recovery, the government should ensure that the recovery is inclusive.
- In terms of next steps - the minister said more work was needed from departments to go further on evidence, and that the Disability Unit will be in touch about this.