

- Minister Prentis may reference Defra’s work to consider household food security. You have seen the note circulated yesterday following an action at GPSMIG on 29 April.

***Item 5: The impact of Covid on people with disabilities***

- The Cabinet Office Disability Unit commissioned departments (including DWP, DFE, BEIS, DEFRA and DFT) for data on the impact of Covid-19 on disabled people and work to mitigate impacts.
- Data highlights disabled people are significantly more likely than non-disabled people to be spending too much time alone and “very worried” about the impact Covid-19 is having on their lives.
- The departmental returns highlight the need for further work to obtain stronger, more complete data on the impact of Covid on disabled people.
- There is good work underway across Government to support disabled people - notably DEFRA work on access to food and DWP easements for disability benefit assessments. However, there is a need to re-emphasise the needs of disabled people must continue to be considered as the response evolves, notably in areas where change is likely to be rapid (e.g. Safer Workplaces), and set a timescale for future ministerial engagement.
- The DAs have indicated that the main impacts relate to the effects of socially isolating on mental health, the cessation of social care support and of personal assistance due to a lack of PPE and reduced access to medicine.