

## **Email to Dave Allen, Chair of Disability Labour, and Emily Brothers, Executive Committee member of Disability Labour.**

**1 June 2018.**

Dear Dave and Emily,

I am very flattered indeed that the Executive has agreed to offer to co-opt me onto the committee.

However, at the same time I am confused that the Executive has not agreed the same offer to Fran. Fran does much more volunteer work for DL than I do and I can't see why she would not be an appropriate co-optee. She has a wealth of relevant experience, skills, abilities and Party contacts, much of which I don't have. Could you let me know why the Executive decided to make the offer to me and not to Fran as well?

I originally wanted to volunteer for DL and I emailed several times to that effect. It took many months of hard work to eventually be allowed to volunteer. As a direct result of this experience I approached other DL members who also felt frustrated at the lack of communication from DL to members as we set up what has now become Disability Equality Act Labour. We have published the campaigning document, 'It's our Party – let us in!' and 'Equality Act 2010 (disability) and the Labour Party', and we have developed our own members' database and a database of CLP secretaries so that we can campaign for practical changes in the Party.

I had always felt that, should DL become fit for purpose, everything DEAL has done would eventually be handed over to DL. But changes at DL have not happened despite repeated promises, including those made at the 2017 AGM.

I'm sure you'll understand I take the offer of co-option very seriously and would want to be fully aware of the current organisational situation before I could give the offer my proper consideration. Could you therefore let me know the following with reference to the DL constitution?

1. Can DL give a cast iron assurance that everyone voting at the 2017 AGM was a current DL member?
2. The Executive must meet at least four times per year. For such meetings to be constitutional, agreed minutes must be kept in a book for that purpose (Section H(8)). As I understand it, the Executive is unlikely to have four such meetings this year.
3. The constitution requires DL to work towards the objectives in the constitution. Can DL provide clear evidence that work has been done on objectives 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7?

4. Can DL identify all current members as defined in Section D of the constitution?
5. Have any Executive members been subject to Section H(12a) without being removed from the Executive in a timely manner?
6. Is Section I(1) operational?
7. Is Section K fully operational?
8. Were the first two bullet points of Section L(8) agreed at the 2017 AGM?

I would really appreciate having a better understanding of how things are at DL before I could decide whether to take up the offer of co-option.

Once again, thanks so much. It means a great deal to me to have this offer.

Sophie Talbot.