

# **ILMI Doorstep briefing for Election Candidates 2024**

This doorstep briefing is designed to empower us as disabled people across Ireland to confidently engage with our election candidates. Often, when a candidate asks for our priorities, it's easy to ask for more services without realising that what we really need are rights-based changes that can transform our lives.

By asking specific, simple questions, we can push for commitments that support real change, not just superficial fixes. These questions will help you highlight key issues in a way that election candidates will understand and, most importantly, that can lead to tangible improvements for all disabled people.

How will you make sure that disabled people are consulted on decisions about our lives?

This question emphasises the principle of "nothing about us without us." It's important because for too long, decisions have been made without our input. Politicians must understand that Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) are the ones who should be shaping policies affecting disabled people. By asking this, you're ensuring they commit to involving us directly in policy-making.



#### What will you do to create more accessible housing for disabled people?

The housing crisis disproportionately affects disabled people. We're more likely to live in unsuitable or unsafe housing, and many of us are trapped in residential settings when we could live independently with the right support. This question demands action to create accessible, affordable homes, so disabled people can have the freedom to live where and how we choose.

## Will you commit to funding Personal Assistance Services (PAS) so we can live independently?

Personal Assistance Services (PAS) are crucial for disabled people to live full lives. Without them, many of us are forced to rely on family members for support, which limits our freedom. By asking this question, you're ensuring the candidate commits to expanding PAS, which can liberate disabled people and their families.

## How will you ensure that disabled people can access education and employment equally?

Education and employment are key to breaking the cycle of poverty and exclusion that so many disabled people face. This question encourages the candidate to commit to making schools and workplaces more inclusive, ensuring that disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else.

#### What will you do to improve transport so disabled people can travel freely?

Without accessible transport, disabled people are cut off from society. This question asks the candidate to prioritise investment in inclusive public transport and ensure that disabled people can travel without barriers, whether in urban or rural areas. It's about ensuring we can participate in our communities equally. By asking these questions, you're not just seeking promises, you're helping to shape a future where disabled people have full control over our lives. Together, we can make our voices heard and push for real change.

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For more go to https://ilmi.ie/ge24-invest-in-inclusion or use the QR code to go directly to the web page