

Scope's response to the Financial Inclusion Commission

About Scope

Scope exists to make this country a place where disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else. Until then, we'll be here.

We provide support, information and advice to more than a quarter of a million disabled people and their families every year. We raise awareness of the issues that matter.

And with your support, we'll keep driving change across society until this country is great for everyone.

Response

1. Scope welcomes the opportunity to draw evidence to the attention of the Financial Inclusion Commission. This evidence responds to **question 16, whether the insurance market is functioning appropriately and competitively.**
2. Scope has set up the [Extra Costs Commission](#), an independent year-long inquiry in to the extra costs faced by disabled people and families with disabled children in England and Wales. Following a call for evidence, the Extra Costs Commission has identified insurance as one of its priority areas of extra costs. This is a product where disabled people most strongly voice concerns that they are being charged inappropriately high prices.
3. Disabled people face large supplements for travel insurance based on their condition – Scope's [Priced Out](#) report found that even those who have recovered from a medical condition still have to declare this to a travel insurer.¹
4. Research commissioned by Scope on [Disabled People and Financial Wellbeing](#) found that one in five disabled people feel they pay more for insurance generally because of their impairment.² Six

¹ Scope, 2014. *Priced out: ending the financial penalty of disability by 2020*. London: Scope, p.9; <http://www.scope.org.uk/Scope/media/Images/Publication%20Directory/Priced-out.pdf>

² Ipsos MORI, 2013, *Disabled People and Financial Wellbeing*. London: Ipsos MORI, p.64; <https://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/publications/1583/Disabled-People-and-financial-wellbeing.aspx>

in ten people who had been turned down for insurance said that it was because of their disability or condition.³

5. If there is a reluctance to profile risk accurately for disabled people because there is an element of risk which does not fit the industry's standard model, the shortcomings of the model may affect a significant number of other people for whom this is true, beyond the more than 11 million disabled people in Great Britain.
6. The Extra Costs Commission will be looking at further evidence as to whether risk is priced appropriately and whether there is a competitive market for insurance services to disabled people.

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³ Ipsos MORI, 2013, *Disabled People and Financial Wellbeing*, p.63; <https://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/publications/1583/Disabled-People-and-financial-wellbeing.aspx>