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The Rt Hon Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
11 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Private and Confidential
via email

Dear Chancellor

Re: Disturbing threat to the wellbeing of disabled drivers

I write in my capacity as the research lead for the Preventable Harm Project,¹ ongoing since 2009, to express serious concern regarding the reported news that you intend to threaten the wellbeing of the disabled community dependent upon access to a Motability car.^{2,3} If this happens, and you do remove the VAT Exemption on Motability cars in the pending budget, it will guarantee that the cars accessed by some of the poorest people in the land will no longer be available to them due to this threatened increased cost; thus removing independence and quality of life from those in greatest need for whom the scheme was designed.³

But Motability Operations, the company that runs this scheme, said this week that removing VAT relief 'would make cars unaffordable for most disabled people, leaving only the wealthiest able to access the scheme – a result that would fundamentally undermine its purpose.'³

It is cause for serious concern that this planned threat to Motability car users follows the disturbing claims by the Leader of HM Opposition and the Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at the recent Conservative Party Conference, who made disturbing claims against the disabled community, and disabled users of Motability cars, which were all a work of fiction and have been severely challenged.^{4,5} It is to be regretted that your decisions negatively impacting on those in gratest need do appear to be influenced by the derogatory commentary by the Leader of HM Opposition whilst disregarding the brutal human consequences such plans would generate.⁵

¹ [The Preventable Harm Project](#)

² [Rachel Reeves takes aim at Motability scheme to save £1bn in budget](#)

³ [Chancellor's reported plans to impose VAT on Motability could add £3,000 to even the cheapest cars](#)

⁴ [REDACTED-Letter-to-Helen-Whately-Shadow-SoS-for-Work-and-Pensions.pdf](#)

⁵ [REDACTED-Letter-to-Kemi-Badenoch-leader-of-the-opposition.pdf](#)



There has been some extreme, hostile and disturbing commentary in the press recently, once again condemning those in greatest need in the UK with predicted cuts planned *'to boost confidence in the welfare system'*.^{6,7} This causes a great deal of suffering and there is an identified government-induced public health crisis within the disabled community as a direct result of these endless threats that have been ongoing for over fifteen years.⁸

Actions have consequences, and the chronically ill and disabled veterans have already suffered enough for this country. It would indeed be yet another tragedy if they are to suffer again by the latest government threat to remove their independent transport. There is a ready source of increased government income if the billionaires and millionaires were taxed fairly and those in greatest need were not, yet again, punished for being unable to work.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mo Stewart', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mo Stewart

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Research Lead, Preventable Harm Project



"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
Martin Luther-King Jr

Author [*'Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state'*](#)
Editor [*The Preventable Harm Project*](#)
Researcher [*Influences and Consequences*](#)

Copied to: Kailia-Jayde Cameron, Chair Green Party Disability Group
Nigel Fletcher, Chief Executive Motability Foundation
Linda Burnip , Disabled People Against Cuts
Frances Leckie, Editor Independent Living
Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee
Emma Vogelmann, CEO Transport for All

⁶ [Rachel Reeves plots £1bn cut to Motability scheme which lets disability claimants access cars](#)

⁷ [Shocking stats that confirm Motability is out of control thanks to broken benefits system](#)

⁸ [Preventable harm: creating a mental health crisis](#)