



Office of Corri Wilson MP

45a Fort Street

Ayr

KA7 1DG

Charles Walker MP
Chair of the Procedures Committee
Room 440
Portcullis House
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Dear Charles

I write ahead of Dyslexia Awareness Week, which takes place from Monday 7 November until Sunday 13 November in Scotland.

Dyslexia affects an estimated one in ten people across the UK. That is, according to Dyslexia Action, over 6 million people. While it is a very common disability, it is an unseen disability, and the complexities and challenges associated with it are often misunderstood.

As someone who is dyslexic, I have found the procedures and language of the House of Commons extremely challenging. While dyslexia primarily affects the ability to read and spell, it also affects my short-memory and the speed that I can recall the procedures in the House. Dyslexia is not the same for everyone and, while many people learn strategies to manage dyslexia, it does not go away. In new situations and in times of particular stress, my dyslexia can be exacerbated.

My colleagues continue to support and guide me with the procedures and the language of the House, but I must express the real frustration I feel, as someone with a disability, that nothing has been done by the House to accommodate Members of Parliament with these challenges.

Ahead of Dyslexia Awareness Week I request that, in your role as Chair of the Procedures Committee, you review what can be done for those with a hidden disability like mine. This issue extends beyond my own personal challenges, to the point where people with dyslexia, indeed with other disabilities, may be reluctant to stand for Parliament due to these barriers.

I would be grateful if you could give this matter its due consideration, and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Corri Wilson
MP for Ayr, Carrick & Cumnock

Tel: 01292 288623

Twitter: @CorriWilsonSNP

corri.wilson.mp@parliament.uk