

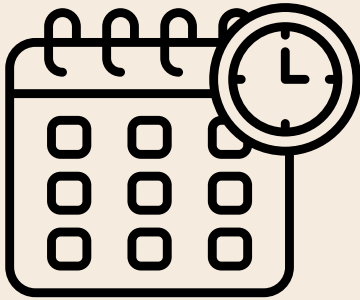
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T H E A T R E C O M P A N Y

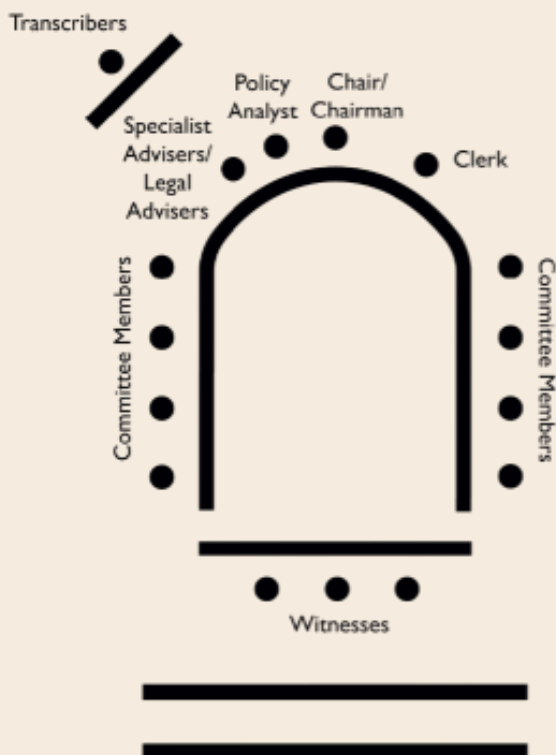
Visual Guide

Public Accounts Committee Hearing: Key Takeaways

About the Hearing



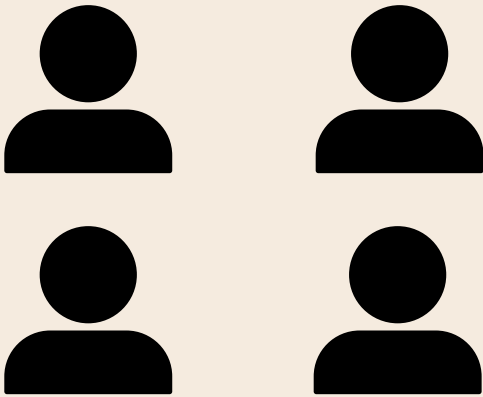
The hearing took place on **Thursday, 12 March.**



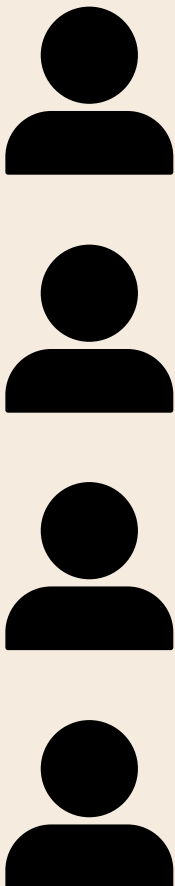
The **room** was **set up** like the image to the left.

There were **committee members sitting** on the **sides** and the **Access to Work** managers **sat** at the **end**.

About the Hearing



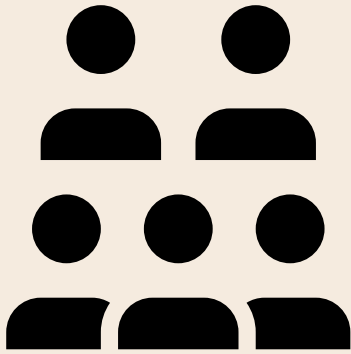
There were **four people** at the **hearing** who **work** for **Access to Work**.



The **names** of those **people** are:

- **Sir Peter Schofield KCB**
- **Neil Couling CB CBE**
- **Helga Swidenbank**
- **Bill Thorpe**

About the Hearing



The **Public Accounts Committee** are **people** who have been **chosen** to do a **task**.



The **task** is to **find out** what has been **causing the problems** with **Access to Work** and **how** these can be **fixed**.



The **committee** asked people who use **Access to Work** to **share** their **experiences**, to **help** them **understand** the **problems**.

About the Hearing



The **committee** asked the **managers** who run **Access to Work** about these **problems**.

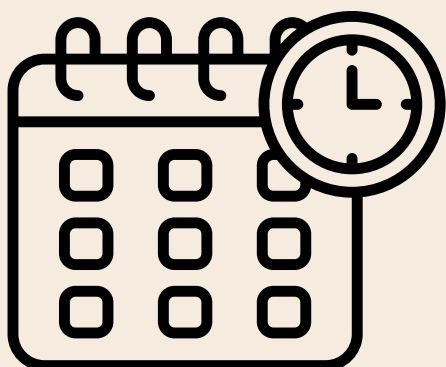


The **managers** **answered questions** about these **problems**.

The Problems



There are **many problems** with Access to Work.



People have to **wait** a **long time** to **find out** if they **will get** **Access to Work**.

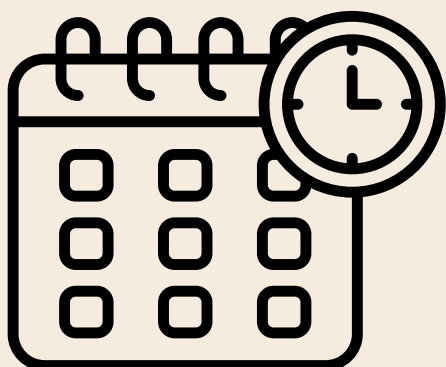


People have to **wait** a **long time** to **receive** their **funding**.

The Problems



People who **reapply** for **Access to Work** are **not getting** the **same support** as they did **last time**.



It **takes** about **6 months** to get a **response** about **Access to Work**.

It **takes longer** than **15 months** if you are **self-employed** or a **freelancer**.

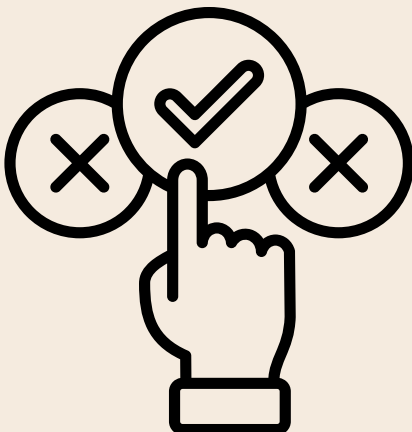
The Answers



The **managers say** it is taking **longer** because there are **more people applying** for **Access to Work** than before.



The **managers say** there are **more neurodivergent people** and **people with mental health conditions** applying.

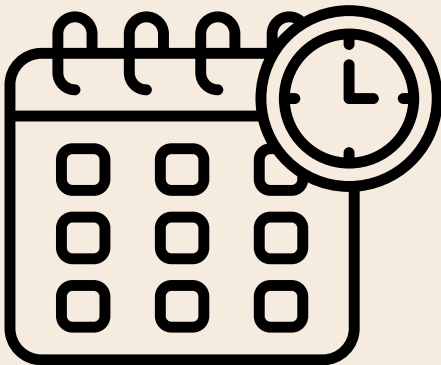


The **managers say** **Access to Work** made **mistakes** with **applications** made from **2020** to **2024**.

The Answers



The **managers** have **hired** more **employees** to work on **Access to Work** applications.



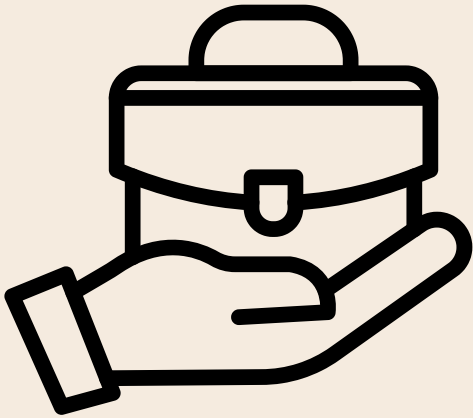
The **managers** say it takes **6 months** to **train** new **employees**.



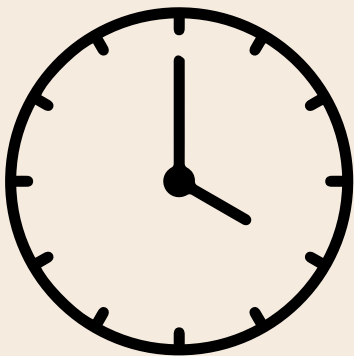
Renewal customers are getting **less** **funding**.

This is **because** **Access to Work** **made mistakes** with awards **before**.

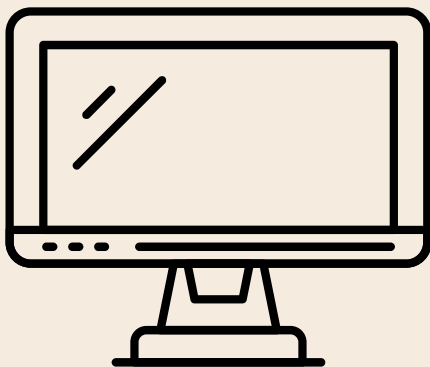
The Answers



Customers who are about to **start** a **new job** are given **priority**.



The **managers say** **wait times** for **applications** should be **less** over the next **two years**.



Access to Work will be getting **new computer systems**.

The **managers say** this will **help** the **Access to Work team** make **better decisions**.

The Answers



Access to Work is a **personalised** service.

The **managers** want to **keep it like this** but also want to **focus** on **value for money**.



The **managers** are **worried** that **companies** are **using Access to Work** **money** to **pay** for **support workers** instead of **employing** **people**.



The **managers** say **employers** must **support** their **employees** to **stay** **healthy**.

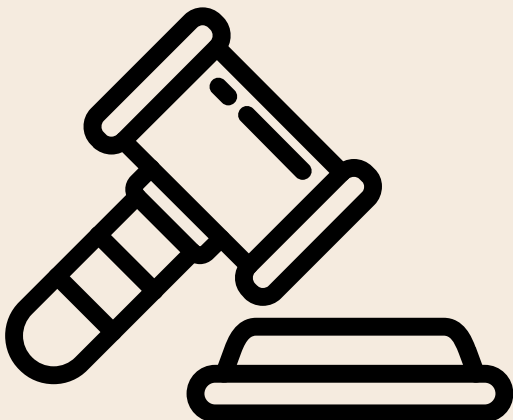
What happens after the Hearing?



The **committee** will **write** a **report** and **publish** it on its **website**.



Anyone can **read** it.



The **government** will **read** it and **respond**.