

Supportive quotes from our campaign partners

Sophie Corlett, Director of External Relations at Mind said: “Occupational health services can benefit people with mental health problems getting into and staying in work. We support John Lewis Partnership’s call for the Government to incentivise employers to put in place occupational health services by scrapping tax.

“With so many disabled people finding it difficult to find suitable work, the Government needs to do everything it can to encourage employers to attract and retain a diverse workforce. While occupational health is only one part of what employers should have in place to support the wellbeing of their staff, it is an important one.”

Dr Liam O’Toole, chief executive of Versus Arthritis: “Seventeen million people in the UK have a musculoskeletal condition, 37% of which are working age adults who are not in work. This has a huge impact on individuals, employers and the economy. We know that people with these conditions want to work and that early interventions can support them to do just that. Whilst supporting people during sick leave is important, we also need to focus on providing ongoing access to occupational health support and well-being initiatives so that more people with musculoskeletal and mental health conditions will be able to stay in work and make the valuable contribution they want to make. This is why we wholly support the call to make occupational health services tax exempt.”

Rachel Suff, Senior Employment Relations Adviser for the CIPD, commented: "The research by John Lewis Partnership shows how much more attention is needed by Government and employers to help prevent ill health such as mental health and musculoskeletal conditions. CIPD research shows that, on the whole, employer strategies tend to be reactive and support people when they are already unwell.

Occupational health services are a vital part of a preventative approach and the benefits of investing at an early stage will bring health and well-being benefits to individuals as well as productivity benefits to organisations and the wider economy. We fully support the Partnership's call for stronger collaboration and sharing of best practice on employee health and well-being, and are committed to playing our part."