

Guide Dogs, as well as creating life changing guide dog partnerships and providing other vital mobility services, campaign passionately to ensure that blind and partially sighted people enjoy the same freedom of movement as everyone else.

By way of current illustration, we need to protect the guide dogs we train and their owners from dangerous dog attacks by ensuring the law appropriately holds irresponsible owners to account. We also need to ensure that whilst Government promotes the uptake of environmentally friendly quiet vehicles they also consider the dangers their quietness poses to vulnerable pedestrians.

We hold concerns that the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill in its current form could impact on our ability to campaign on behalf of blind and partially sighted people. We wish to submit this statement to fully support the work of the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement and NCVO on behalf of non-party campaigning organisations. We advocate the eight amendments proposed by NCVO, with particular emphasis on section eight relating to the definition of controlled expenditure. The ambiguity around whether our campaigning work would fall under the restrictions on expenditure is real cause for concern and we urge the Government to accept the changes as outlined by NCVO.