

From the Chief Executive

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Sent via email

30 June 2020

Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms MP
Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Mr Timms,

NOTICE OF CORRECTION TO DWP'S RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (HC 178)

I regret to inform you that my earlier letter, of 4th June 2020, contained a drafting error; insofar as it stated that one prohibition notice had been served. This is incorrect and should have stated that two improvement notices had been served.

For reference, a prohibition notice may be served on a person by an inspector where he/she is of the opinion that a particular activity being carried out (or that is likely to be carried out) involves (or will involve) a risk of serious personal injury. The activity must cease immediately; however, depending upon the activity being prohibited, this may or may not lead to the complete closure of a business. An improvement notice, on the other hand, requires the duty holder to address a particular risk(s) within a specified period as determined by the inspector based on the circumstances, but it is a **minimum** of 21 days to allow for any appeal.

I note that paragraphs 224, 225, 227 and paragraph 44 of the Conclusions chapter of the Select Committee's published report, *DWP's response to coronavirus* (HC 178), reference this error and refer either to the issuing of a prohibition notice or to the closure of a business as a consequence.

I sincerely apologise for this error and for any confusion this has caused.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Albon', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Sarah Albon
Chief Executive, Health and Safety Executive