



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Catherine McKinnell MP  
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Dear Catherine,

**PETITION TO EXTEND MATERNITY LEAVE**

Thank you for your report of 6 July 2020 which called for the Government to extend parental leave and pay for new parents in light of COVID-19 and made a number of recommendations. I know that you hoped to hear the Government's views on this ahead of the House rising for summer recess on 22nd July, but I am afraid that this will not be possible.

The Committee's recommendations require careful consideration, and many of them fall outside of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy's remit, in terms of policy and legislative responsibility. As such, it has been necessary for my officials to confer with their counterparts in the relevant Departments, and they in turn need to ensure that their own Ministers are fully appraised of the issues that parents have highlighted and the Committee's recommendations on these.

I am grateful to the Committee for considering the various matters that the report covers. I will write to you with a full and comprehensive response to the recommendations that you have made as soon as feasibly possible, and certainly no later than the 60 days that are normally given to Government to respond to reports of this nature.

Thank you again for the time that the Committee has taken to consider this important issue and for your comprehensive report and recommendations.

**PAUL SCULLY MP**

Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets  
Minister for London