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Sir Stephen Timms, MP, Chair,
Work and Pensions Committee
Joanna Cherry QC, MP, Acting Chair,
Joint Committee on Human Rights

21st July 2022

Dear Stephen and Joanna,

Bereavement Benefits (2021) Remedial Order

Thank you for your letter of 7th July, where you sought confirmation that we intend to lay the Bereavement Support Payment and Widowed Parent's Allowance Remedial Order before Parliament by the start of the summer recess.

As part of the process of finalising the Order, my officials are working through a number of complex policy, drafting and implementation issues that require careful consideration. This includes, but is not limited to, the important comments made by the Joint Committee on Human Rights and other interested parties on the draft proposed Order.

It is vital that we get this right and take the time required to address any issues appropriately. This means that we have not been in a position to lay the Order by the start of summer recess. I can assure you, however, that this issue remains an absolute priority for this department, and my officials are working at pace to lay the Order as soon after the return to Parliament as progress and parliamentary time will allow.

I will write to inform you once we have laid the Remedial Order before Parliament, and I look forward to engaging with you and your committees on our proposals once the Order is laid.

With best wishes,

BARONESS STEDMAN-SCOTT
MINISTER FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (LORDS)