



Work and Pensions Committee

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Chloe Smith MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions

From the Chair

21 September 2022

Dear Chloe

I write on behalf of the Committee to express our congratulations on your recent appointment as Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

One of the benefits of your appointment for us is that you are already familiar with the Committee's work and inquiries! We have a particular interest in the rising cost of living, and the impact on those in receipt of social security. We published a report on [The Cost of Living](#) on 27 July 2022 and received a [response from the previous Secretary of State](#) which we published on 8 September 2022. The Committee looks forward to hearing how the Department will now respond in these difficult times to support those who are out of work and on low incomes.

When we met briefly just after the new Prime Minister took office, I asked if the two of us might meet to discuss the Committee's work, and the Department's programme. Might this now be possible to arrange?

I know I speak on behalf of the whole Committee in looking forward to hearing from you in the coming months about the work of the Department, and in extending our best wishes to you, as you grapple with the immense current challenges, for a fruitful, rewarding and successful term.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Chair