



Work and Pensions Committee

11 May 2023

Tom Pursglove MP
Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work
Department for Work and Pensions
(By e-mail only)

Dear Tom,

Personal Independence Payments (PIP) and the MH judgment

Thank you for your letter of 7 March, responding to my questions on the MH judgment on PIP assessments.

Having considered your response, I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with the following additional information:

1. If the initial estimate for the administrative exercise of 1.6 million had been accurate (i.e. neither an overestimate nor an underestimate), what is the Department's estimate for how many PIP decisions would have required revision;
 - a. How does this compare with the number of cases which have been revised;
2. When the Department made the initial estimate for the administrative exercise, did it assess that estimate as being "very uncertain"—the 2017 Equality Assessment implies that there was a clear method for how the estimate was reached;
 - a. If so, what was the Department's assessment of the likely margin of error;
3. Does the Department accept that the error, identified by the judgment, in how it had been making its decisions, might have affected the evidence-gathering part of its decision-making processes as well as the adjudication part;
 - a. Why is this the Department's assessment;
4. How, if at all, did the administrative exercise attempt to rectify any previous problems with the evidence-gathering part of the relevant decision-making processes, in particular any problems with the way in which consultations would have gathered evidence about claimants' abilities; and
5. What steps has the Department taken to satisfy itself that differences between the number of revised decisions implied to be necessary by the estimate, and the actual number of revised decisions, is the result of a problem with the estimate, and not with the effectiveness of the administrative exercise.

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Thursday 25 May. As is usual practice with the Committee's correspondence, I will be publishing this letter and your response on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Timms". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee