



## Women and Equalities Committee

**Laura Trott MBE MP**  
**Minister for Pensions, Department for Work and Pensions**  
**By email**

**14 June 2023**

Dear Laura,

### **The Rights of cohabiting partners**

I am writing to follow up on the Government's response to our Committee's August 2022 report on the Rights of cohabiting partners. In that report we called on the Government to provide better protections for cohabitants in the event of relationship breakdown or the death of a partner.

One of our recommendations was for the Government to publish clear guidelines on how pension schemes should treat surviving cohabiting partners, including what those partners are entitled to, and what evidence they will need to access survivor's pensions.

The Government accepted the recommendation in principle. It agreed that more guidance was needed for people to make an informed choice and said it would consider whether non legislative broad guidance would be appropriate, having discussed the matter with the Pensions Regulator and key stakeholders first.

I would be grateful if you could provide an update on the progress the Department for Work and Pensions has made on this commitment.

Yours ever,

**Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP**  
**Chair, Women and Equalities Committee**