



Work and Pensions Committee

18 July 2023

Tom Pursglove MP

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

Dear Tom,

DWP staff working on fraud and error

I am writing in relation to the number of staff working on fraud and error in the Department.

Your colleague, the Minister for Employment, said in response to the DWP Estimate's Day debate on 4 July ([col. 734](#)) that "We have a large number of extra staff who have been brought in to address fraud and error". As I indicated I would in that debate, I then tabled two written parliamentary questions (PQs)—[UIN 193046](#) and [UIN 193047](#)—to seek information on how many DWP staff work on fraud and error and how this has changed between January 2020 and June 2023.

Your response to the PQs did not provide the information I requested. I note the undertaking in the [Fighting fraud in the welfare system](#) policy paper that there will be "1,400 more staff in our counter-fraud teams, a new 2,000-strong team dedicated to reviewing existing Universal Credit claims".

I would however be grateful if you could provide the Committee with:

- the evidence to support the Minister for Employment's assertion in the House that "a large number of extra staff ... have been brought in to address fraud and error", including progress against the undertakings in the *Fighting fraud in the welfare system* paper; and
- the information requested in the two PQs.

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Wednesday 23 August. 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,

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

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