



Work and Pensions Committee



Business and Trade Committee

07 December 2023

Lisa Wilkinson

Former Chair, Wilko
(By e-mail only)

Dear Lisa,

Wilko pension deficit

Thank you for your evidence to the Business and Trade Committee on the collapse of Wilko.

The wealth of the Wilkinson family has been reported to be just less than half a billion pounds. This is largely the fruits of the hard work of Wilko employees, loyal to the family, over the last ninety years. You rightly paid them a tribute before the Business and Trade Committee on 28 November.

Would you not accept that there is, at least, a compelling moral case that the family should forego a small proportion of its wealth to fill the £50 million hole in the pension fund? That would mean that the pension promises made by the family to loyal workers over decades would be honoured, rather than broken. Breaking those promises would, inevitably, leave a permanent and indelible stain on the reputation of your family.

We would be grateful for your response by Thursday 21 December. As is usual practice with Committee correspondence, we will be publishing this letter and your response on our websites.

Yours sincerely,

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

Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP
Chair, Business and Trade Committee