



Work and Pensions Committee

18 January 2024

Peter Schofield

Permanent Secretary, Department for Work and Pensions

(By e-mail only)

Dear Peter,

Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23

Thank you very much for giving evidence to the Committee on 10 December for our one-off session on DWP's Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23. We recognise the time and effort it will have taken to prepare for the session and the number of people involved. It was very helpful to have you answer our questions about particular aspects of the Annual Report and Accounts.

In the session, we discussed DWP's Internal Process Reviews (IPRs) and we asked about the 29 IPR referrals made in 2022-23 that were judged not to have met the criteria for being subject to an IPR. We would be grateful if you could explain the criteria for making these determinations, and also if you could provide as much information as possible about the 29 cases, including:

- how many involved death or serious harm, including attempted suicide; and
- the reasons they were judged not to have met the criteria for being subject to an IPR.

Also in the session, we asked about staff workload and the warning from the PCS of an "epidemic of mental ill health" among DWP staff and whether the number of people who had taken time off as a result of poor mental health had risen. We would be grateful if you could provide an answer to this question in writing. You also said the results of the latest civil service people survey showed an increase in the proportion of staff happy with their workload. Could you confirm whether these survey results have been published. If they have not, could you please provide us with them and any other relevant evidence you might have?

Finally, we asked about the number of buildings in the DWP estate that had been found to contain reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). We appreciate that the then Minister for Social Mobility, Youth and Progression, Mims Davies MP, wrote to us last September to explain DWP's assessment at the time of the presence of RAAC in the estate. If any of the information in this letter is out of date, we would be grateful if you could provide an update in writing.

Once again, we would like to thank you for attending the evidence session and for your ongoing engagement with the Committee.

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Wednesday 24 January 2024. 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'.

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