



Work and Pensions Committee

25 January 2024

Jo Churchill MP

Minister for Employment
Department for Work and Pensions
(By e-mail only)

Dear Jo,

Cost of living support payments: Government response

Congratulations on your appointment—we look forward to hearing from you on 31 January in relation to our Statutory Sick Pay inquiry.

The Committee is grateful to the Department for its response to the Committee's Cost of living support payments Report. The Committee would be grateful if you could work with Ministerial colleagues to provide some further information, specifically:

1. Confirmation that the Government will publish its evaluation of cost of living payments and the Department's expected timetable for doing this;
2. Data, similar to that provided in response to the recommendations at paragraphs 26 and 27, for later tranches of cost of living payments on those not eligible, when such data is available;
3. Data on the other reasons (i.e. not earnings—this is provided in response to paragraphs 26 and 27) why people did not receive the first 2022 cost of living payment;
4. What stakeholder representations Ministers have received on extending the Household Support Fund into 2024–25;
5. Further information on the Invitation to Claim trial for Pension Credit, including the trial's timescale, when the evaluation is taking place, whether the evaluation will be published, and whether further trials are planned; and
6. A more detailed explanation of how the Department reached £150 as the value of the disability cost of living payment.

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Wednesday 14 February. 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