



Work and Pensions Committee

23 May 2024

Mims Davies

Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work
Department for Work and Pensions

Viscount Younger of Leckie

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Work and Pensions
(By e-mail only)

Dear Minister Davies and Minister Younger,

Safeguarding vulnerable claimants inquiry

As a result of the General Election having been called, it has not been possible for the Committee to agree a Report in conclusion of its [Safeguarding vulnerable claimants](#) inquiry before the prorogation of Parliament on Friday 24 May. Although we had concluded taking evidence on this inquiry, we had not yet finalised our findings.

However, we want to place on record our thanks to all those who contributed to our inquiry—the issues we covered were difficult and we know it won't have been easy for some people to contribute.

We hope that the evidence we have gathered will be of interest to our successor Committee, the next Government and to the individuals and organisations outside of Parliament and Government who are interested in the matters covered by this inquiry. We heard much thought-provoking evidence, for example, on whether the Department should have a statutory duty to safeguard vulnerable claimants and if it did, what this might look like. These are no doubt issues that will be returned to in the future.

I am writing to you both on behalf of the Committee to draw your and the public's attention to some further documents we have published today as part of this inquiry:

- A summary note of roundtables that we held on 28 November 2023 with people with lived experience, both as vulnerable claimants and as those who represented and supported them;
- A summary note of unpublished written evidence which shared personal testimony of the DWP system;
- A summary note of a private meeting we held with DWP officials on 28 February 2024; and

- Aggregate findings of a survey of DWP staff that we conducted.

We hope that the issues raised in our inquiry will be picked up by our successor Committee in the next Parliament.

As is usual practice with the Committee's correspondence, I will be publishing this letter on the Committee's website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Timms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and the last name "Timms" clearly distinguishable.

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