



# Formal Minutes of the Work and Pensions Committee in Session 2023–24

The Formal Minutes of a select committee record its formal proceedings and decisions.

They include:

- the names of the members who attended (all or part of) each meeting of the Committee;
- declarations of members' interests;
- details of written and oral evidence reported to the House by the Committee;
- any other formal decisions taken by the committee (recorded as 'orders' or 'resolutions'), for example to begin an inquiry, to report evidence to the House, to make a visit or to appoint a specialist adviser; and
- visits made by the Committee.

When the Committee publishes a Report, the Formal Minutes relating to consideration of the draft Report are published with the Report itself, and are not included in this document. You can find these reports on the Committee's webpages.

For more information about Formal Minutes, see [Erskine May paragraph 38.26](#).

Transcripts of oral evidence taken in public by the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

Attendance statistics for members of the Committee are available on the Committee's webpages.

# Wednesday 8 November

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Shaun Bailey

Siobhan Baillie

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future Programme

*Resolved,* That the Committee inquire into Statutory Sick Pay.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Correspondence with Clara-Pensions, dated 6 November 2023.

Correspondence with the Pension Protection Fund, dated 27 October 2023.

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Neuro Key (SVC0004)

JHME (SVC0005)

Benefit Resolution CIC (SVC0006)

Feeding Britain (SVC0008)

Benefit Resolution CIC (SVC0009)

Mr Ben Scott (Volunteer (Steward) at Pontio, Bangor (Gwynedd) University) (SVC0014)

Anonymised (SVC0016)

Anonymised (SVC0017)

Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich Mind (SVC0018)

National Network of Parent Carer Forums (SVC0022)

Anonymised (SVC0023)

Changing Lives (SVC0024)

Mo Stewart (Independent disability studies researcher) (SVC0025)

Citizens Advice Carlisle and Eden (SVC0026)  
Anonymised (SVC0027)  
National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers (SVC0028)  
Chartered Institute of Housing (SVC0029)  
Anonymised (SVC0030)  
Miss Linda Francis (SVC0033)  
Anonymised (SVC0035)  
Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) (SVC0036)  
Anonymised (SVC0037)  
Stroud and Cotswold Citizens Advice (SVC0038)  
Citizens Advice Reading (SVC0039)  
Anonymised (SVC0040)  
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) (SVC0041)  
The Money and Mental Health Policy Institute (SVC0042)  
National Federation of ALMOs (SVC0043)  
Public Law Project (PLP) (SVC0044)  
Mrs Gill Thompson (SVC0045)  
Disability Rights UK (SVC0049)  
Women's Aid (SVC0050)  
Liverpool John Moores University (SVC0051)  
Z2K (SVC0052)  
WinVisible (women with visible & invisible disabilities) (SVC0053)  
Community Opportunity (SVC0054)  
Mental Health Foundation (SVC0055)  
Department for Work and Pensions (SVC0056)  
Coventry Frontline Network (SVC0060)  
Mary Ward Legal Centre (SVC0063)  
Rethink Mental Illness (SVC0064)  
Independent Age (SVC0065)  
Poverty Alliance (SVC0066)  
MS Society (SVC0067)

Correspondence from the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work relating to Personal Independence Payment and the MM judgment, dated 26 October 2023.

Correspondence with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury relating to income protection insurance, dated 2 November 2023.

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to Wilko Pensions, dated 25 October 2023.

Correspondence with the Permanent Secretary relating to Carer's Allowance, dated 18 October 2023.

Correspondence with the Permanent Secretary relating to NRPF Household Support Fund guidance, dated 20 October 2023.

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to Plan for Jobs and employment support, dated 8 November 2023.

Correspondence with Secretary of State relating to DWP's use of Artificial Intelligence, dated 26 October 2023.

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to the Work Capability Assessment consultation, dated 27 October 2023.

### 3. Cost of living support payments

Draft Report (*Cost of living support payments*) proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the First Report of the Committee, HC 143.

### 4. Defined benefit pension schemes

The Chair declared that he had been the Minister for Pensions in the early months after the PPF and FAS were set up.

Terry Monk, Member of the Executive Committee, Richard Nicholl, Member of the Executive Committee, Pensions Action Group, Roger Sainsbury, Founder, Deprived Pensioners Association and Neil Walsh, Pensions Officer, Prospect, gave oral evidence.

Oliver Morley, Chief Executive, Sara Protheroe, Chief Customer Officer and Barry Kenneth, Chief Investment Officer, Pension Protection Fund, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 15 November at 9.15am.

# Wednesday 15 November

## Members present

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Neil Coyle

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Steve McCabe

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Benefit levels in the UK**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated, 3 November 2023.

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

BP Pensioners Group (DBP0090)

Hewlett Packard Pension Association (HPPA) (DBP0091)

## 3. Statutory Sick Pay

The Committee considered this matter.

## 4. Defined benefit pensions with Liability Driven Investments

Draft Special Report (Defined benefit pensions with Liability Driven Investments: Government Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2022–23), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Seventh Report from the Committee of Session 2022–23 was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

## 5. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants

Henry Parkes, Principal economist & head of quantitative research, Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), Chloe Schendel-Wilson, Co Founder and Director, The Disability Policy Centre and Nikki Bond, Interim Head of Research and Policy, Money and Mental Health Policy Institute, gave oral evidence.

Professor Lisa Scullion, Professor of Social Policy, University of Salford and Professor Ben Baumberg Geiger, Professor in Social Science and Health, King's College London, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 22 November at 9.15am.

# Wednesday 22 November

## Members present

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Neil Coyle

David Linden

Steve McCabe

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pensions schemes**

Hymans Robertson (DBP0092)

### **People and skills and the UK Shared Prosperity**

Learning and Work Institute (PPF0001)

Local Government Association (PPF0002)

Shaw Trust (PPF0003)

The Prince's Trust (PPF0004)

Salvation Army (PPF0005)

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Anonymised (SVC0020)

Miss Amanda Hammatt (SVC0059)

Correspondence from the Equality and Human Rights Commission relating to Equality and Human Rights Monitor 2023, dated 16 November 2023.

Correspondence with Morrisons relating to Employer pension contributions, dated 15 November 2023.

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to meeting with The Pensions Action Group, dated 16 November 2023.

*Ordered,* That part of the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Mr James Edwards (SVC0012)

Anonymised (SVC0015)

Julie Webster (SVC0047)

## **3. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

The Committee considered this matter.

## **4. People and skills and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Councillor Amanda Serjeant, Deputy Chair, People and Places Board, Local Government Association, Sam Avanzo Windett, Deputy Director, Learning and Work Institute, Richard Rigby, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, The Prince's Trust and Richard Clifton, Chief Commercial Officer, Shaw Trust, gave oral evidence.

## **Adjournment**

Adjourned till Wednesday 29 November at 9.15am.



# Wednesday 29 November

## Members Present

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

David Linden

Steve McCabe

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Benefit levels in the UK**

Become (BPI0102)

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Royal Ordnance Pensioners Association (DBP0093)

Pensions Action Group (DBP0094)

Correspondence with the Pension Protection Fund, dated 21 November 2023.

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Bristol Hub for Gambling Harms Research, University of Bristol (SVC0069)

Correspondence from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care relating to the Public Consultation on Occupational Health;

Correspondence from the Secretary of State relating to Fighting Fraud in the Welfare System; and

Correspondence from the Secretary of State relating to Work Capability Assessment Consultation Response.

### 3. Defined benefit pension schemes

Nausicaa Delfas, Chief Executive Officer, Louise Davey, Interim Director of Regulatory Policy, Analysis and Advice, and Neil Bull, Head of Investment, The Pensions Regulator, gave oral evidence.

### 4. Benefit levels in the UK

The Committee considered this matter.

### Adjournment

Adjourned till Wednesday 6 December at 9.15am.

# Wednesday 6 December

## Members present

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Neil Coyle

David Linden

Steve McCabe

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

Correspondence with Morrisons relating to employer pension contributions, dated 29 November 2023.

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to AEAT pension scheme, dated 30 November 2023.

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to DWP use of artificial intelligence, dated 4 December 2023.

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to Plan for Jobs and employment support, dated 22 November 2023.

## 3. Work and Pensions Committee attendance statistics

The Committee considered this matter.

## 4. Benefit levels in the UK

Rt Hon Mel Stride MP, Secretary of State, Katie Farrington, Director General for Disability, Health and Pensions, and Katherine Green, Director General for Labour

Market Policy and Implementation, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 13 December at 9.15 am.

# Wednesday 13 December

## Members present

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Neil Coyle

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Evidence reported for publication

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Benefit levels in the UK**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated 13 December 2023.

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, dated 13 December 2023.

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

American Express [DBP0095]

Correspondence with the Pension Protection Fund, dated 6 December 2023.

### **Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

The Pensions Ombudsman [NPS0004]

The Pensions Regulator [NPS0005]

Fraud Compensation Fund [NPS0006]

Anonymised [NPS0007]

Dalriada Trustees Limited [NPS0008]

Pinsent Masons LLP [NPS0009]  
Association of Pension Lawyers [NPS0010]  
Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association [NPS0011]  
People's Partnership [NPS0012]

### **People and skills and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, dated 13 December 2023.

Correspondence with Lisa Wilkinson relating to the Wilko pension deficit, dated 7 December 2023

Correspondence with Lisa Wilkinson and Amalgamated Holdings Limited relating to the Wilko pension deficit, dated 11 December 2023.

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to the Wilko pension scheme, dated 7 December 2023.

Correspondence with the Information Commissioner relating to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, dated 7 December 2023.

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to Guaranteed Minimum Pensions, dated 13 December 2023.

*Ordered,* That part of the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

Mr William Wallace and Mr Neil Davis [NPS0002]

Anonymised [NPS003]

## **3. Statutory sick pay**

The Committee considered this matter.

## **4. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Ashley McDougal, Director, National Audit Office, Joshua Reddaway, Director, National Audit Office, gave oral evidence.

Daphne Hall, Vice Chair, National Association of Welfare Rights Advisors, Brian Dow, Deputy Chief Executive, Rethink Mental Illness, and Jamie Thunder, Policy and Public Affairs Office, Zacchaeus 2000 Trust, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 10 January at 9.00am.

## **Tuesday 19 December**

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 4 March 2020:

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill.

Correspondence with the Information Commissioner relating to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, dated 18 December 2023.



# Wednesday 10 January 2024

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

Peter Grant also attended for item 5 under the provisions of paragraph (1)(e) of Standing Order No 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees and Work and Pensions Committee's resolution of 10 January 2024).

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Dalriada Trustees Limited (DBP0096)

The Pensions Regulator (DBP0097)

Lane Clark and Peacock (DBP0099)

Correspondence with the Office for National Statistics relating to Defined benefit pensions schemes, dated 13 December 2023 and 5 January 2024

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to meeting with the Pensions Action Group, dated 18 December 2023

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to Proposed Scheme Funding Regime—Open Defined Benefit Pension Schemes, dated 18 December 2023

### **People and skills and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Local Government Association (PPF0006)

## **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Michael Coggles (SVC0071)

## **Statutory Sick Pay**

Peabody (SSP0001)

Helen Evans, Lucy Fewtrell, Lauryn Dodd, Cerys Locklin, Nicole Evans (SSP0002)

Morris (SSP0004)

Anonymised (SSP0005)

Scope (SSP0006)

Group Risk Development 'GRiD' (SSP0007)

Unum UK (SSP0008)

Dr Gareth Millward (Assistant Professor at University of Southern Denmark)  
(SSP0009)

The Money and Mental Health Policy Institute (SSP0010)

Association of British Insurers (SSP0011)

The Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals (CIPP) (SSP0012)

National Voices (SSP0013)

University of Essex, and Freelancers Make Theatre Work (SSP0014)

Centre for Progressive Change (SSP0015)

Law Society of Scotland (SSP0016)

Child Poverty Action Group (SSP0017)

Trades Union Congress (SSP0018)

Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University (SSP0019)

Simply Business (SSP0020)

Recruitment & Employment Confederation (SSP0021)

Cystic Fibrosis Trust (SSP0022)

MS Society (SSP0023)

Mind (SSP0024)

Association of Labour Providers (SSP0025)

Access to Insurance Working Group (SSP0027)

The Work Foundation (SSP0028)

Tavistock Relationships (SSP0029)

Covid 19 Bereaved Families for Justice UK (SSP0030)

Fabian Society (SSP0031)

Women's Budget Group (SSP0032)

Correspondence with the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work relating to the Health Transformation Programme, dated 20 December 2023

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to the Wilko pension scheme, dated 21 December 2023

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to Guaranteed Minimum Pensions (GMP), dated 9 January 2024

### 3. Benefit levels in the UK

The Committee considered this matter.

### 4. Defined benefit pension schemes

Paul Maynard MP, Minister for Pensions, Fiona Frobisher, Deputy Director, Defined Benefit Policy Division, Department for Work and Pensions, Bim Afolami MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, and Laura Webster, Director, Personal Taxes, Welfare and Pensions, HM Treasury, gave oral evidence

### 5. DWP's Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23

*Resolved*, That Peter Grant on behalf of the Committee of Public Accounts be invited to attend the meeting on 10 January 2024 relating to DWP's Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23, pursuant to Standing Order No 137A(1)(e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

Peter Schofield, Permanent Secretary, Katie Farrington, Director General, Disability, Health and Pensions, and Neil Couling, Director General, Change and Resilience, and Senior Responsible Owner Universal Credit, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 17 January at 9.15am

# Wednesday 17 January

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Shaun Bailey

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

John Benson and Phil Jones (DBP0098)

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

Danny Berry (SSP0033)

Correspondence with Waltham Forest Council relating to Household Support Fund, dated 11 January 2024

## 3. Statutory Sick Pay

Dr Gareth Millward, Assistant Professor, University of Southern Denmark, Professor Matt Padley, Co-Director, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University and Professor Chris Rauh, Professor of Economics and Data Science, University of Cambridge, gave oral evidence.

Nicola Smith, Head of Rights, International, Social and Economics, Trades Union Congress, Amanda Walters, Director, Centre for Progressive Change and Thomas Hamilton-Shaw, Policy Manager, Scope, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 24 January at 9.15am

## Wednesday 24 January

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Marsha de Cordova

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Sir Desmond Swayne

### 1. Declaration of interests

Marsha de Cordova declared her interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (see Appendix).

### 2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

### 3. Written evidence

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### **Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23**

Correspondence with DWP Permanent Secretary relating to Annual Report and Accounts 2022-23 session follow-up, dated 18 January 2024

#### **Defined benefit pensions**

Jane Hutt (DBP0100)

Correspondence with Economic Secretary to the Treasury relating to Defined benefit pensions evidence session follow-up, dated 15 January 2024

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions relating to Defined benefit pensions evidence session follow-up, dated 15 January 2024

Correspondence with the Secretary of State relating to publication of Universal Credit childcare statistics, dated 16 January 2024

#### 4. Fiduciary Duty

The Committee considered this matter.

#### 5. Cost of living support payments

Draft Special Report (Cost of living support payments: Government Response to the Committee's First Report), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the First Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

#### 6. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants

Professor Sally McManus, Senior Lecturer in Health, City University London and Dr Jeremy Dixon, Senior Lecturer, Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, gave oral evidence.

Corrin Hammersley, Interim Head of Advice and Benefits, Advice and Benefits Service, Royal Borough of Greenwich and Professor Michael Preston-Shoot, Joint Convener, National Network for Chair of Safeguarding Adults Boards, gave oral evidence.

#### Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 31 January at 9.15am

# Wednesday 31 January

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Marsha de Cordova

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Cost of living support payments**

Correspondence with the Minister for Employment relating to Cost of living support payments, dated 25 January 2024

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Correspondence with the Economic Secretary to the Treasury relating to Defined benefit pension schemes, dated 24 January 2024

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Anonymised (SVC0073)

Michael Coggles (SVC0074)

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) (SSP0034)

## **People and skills and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Correspondence with the Minister for Levelling Up relating to UK Shared Prosperity Fund, dated 24 January 2024

Correspondence with the Health and Safety Executive relating to night time work and HSE's assessment of mesothelioma deaths, dated 31 January 2024

## **3. Work and Pensions Committee attendance statistics**

The Committee considered this matter.

## **4. Statutory Sick Pay**

Mathew Akrigg, Policy and Research Officer, Chartered Institute of Payroll Professionals, Rachel Suff, Senior Policy Adviser, Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, Rebecca Deegan, Head of Health and Protection Insurance, Association of British Insurers and Tina McKenzie, UK Policy and Advocacy Chair, Federation of Small Businesses, gave oral evidence.

Jo Churchill MP, Minister for Employment, Department for Work and Pensions, Lorraine Jackson, Director, Joint Work and Health Directorate and Sean Povey, Deputy Director, Fit Note and Statutory Sick Pay, Joint Work and Health Directorate, Department of Health and Social Care, gave oral evidence.

## **Adjournment**

Adjourned until Wednesday 7 February at 9.15am



# Wednesday 7 February

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Marsha de Cordova

David Linden

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23**

Correspondence with Peter Schofield relating to DWP's Annual Report and Accounts 2022–23, dated 30 January 2024

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Correspondence from The Pensions Regulator and its Review of impact on DB landscape following LDI episode, dated 2 February 2024

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Bridport and District Citizens Advice (SVC0076)

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

Centre for Progressive Change (SVC0035)

Correspondence from the Department for Business and Trade relating to 2024 National living wage and national minimum wage rates, dated 31 January 2024.

### 3. Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund

The Committee considered this matter.

### 4. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants

Caroline Selman, Senior Research Fellow, Public Law Project, Jesse Nicholls, Barrister, Matrix Law and William Ford, Partner, Litigation and Social Care Departments, Osbornes Law, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 21 February at 9.15am

# Wednesday 21 February

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Shaun Bailey

Siobhan Baillie

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

*Resolved*, That the Committee inquire into Disability employment.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Benefit levels in the UK**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated 9 February

### **Cost of living support payments**

Correspondence with the Minister for Employment, dated 14 February

### **Fiduciary duty**

Make My Money Matter (FYD001)

Principles for Responsible Investment (FYD002)

Lane, Clark & Peacock (FYD003)

ShareAction (FYD004)

Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (FYD005)

Ario Advisory (FYD006)

Carbon Tracker Initiative (FYD007)

Pensions for Purpose (FYD008)

Association of Professional Pension Trustees (FYD009)

ClientEarth (FYD010)

UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (FYD011)

Impact Investing Institute (FYD012)

Association of Pension Lawyers (APL): Legislative & Parliamentary Sub-committee, Investment & DC Sub-committee (FYD013)  
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (FYD014)  
Universities Superannuation Scheme (FYD015)

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Correspondence with the Permanent Secretary, dated 15 February

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

Correspondence with the Minister for Employment, dated 9 February

Correspondence from DWP relating to PIP and the MM Judgment, dated 8 February

Correspondence from the Health and Safety Executive relating to HSE's approach to asbestos management, dated 12 February

Correspondence with the Health and Safety Executive relating to night time work and mesothelioma deaths, dated 12 February

## **3. Statutory Sick Pay**

The Committee considered this matter.

## **4. Carer's Allowance**

The Committee considered this matter.

## **5. Fiduciary duties**

Debbie Abrahams declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Committee's work on Fiduciary duties in that she had been a member of the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Charlotte O'Leary, CEO, Pensions for Purpose, Lewis Johnstone, Director of Policy, ShareAction, Tony Burdon, CEO, Make My Money Matter and James Alexander, Chief Executive, UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association, gave oral evidence.

Carol Young, Chief Executive, Universities Superannuation Scheme, Rachel Croft, Council Member, Association of Professional Pension Trustees, Debbie Webb, Chair of the Pensions Board, Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and Nigel People, Director

of Policy and Advocacy, Pension and Lifetime Savings Association, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 28 February at 9.15am

# Wednesday 28 February

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Marsha de Cordova

Neil Coyle

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to Impact on DB Schemes following LDI episode, dated 20 February 2024

### **Department for Work and Pensions Supplementary Estimate Memorandum**

Department for Work and Pensions Supplementary Estimate Memorandum 2023–24

### **Norton pension schemes and Fraud Compensation Fund**

Interpath Ltd. (NPS0013)

BDO LLP (NPS0014)

### **Plan for Jobs and employment support**

Correspondence with the State of State, dated 22 February 2024

## **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Anne-Marie O'Sullivan & Declan O'Sullivan (SVC077)

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to the West Midlands Pension Fund, dated 22 February 2024

### **3. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Rob Behrens, Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman and Rebecca Hilsenrath, Chief Executive, Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, gave oral evidence.

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned until Wednesday 6 March at 9.00am

## **Wednesday 6 March**

### **Members present:**

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Shaun Bailey

Siobhan Baillie

Marsha de Cordova

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

### **1. Future programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

### **2. Written evidence**

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions, from February 2024

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Correspondence with the Permanent Secretary, dated 28 February 2024

### **Statutory Sick Pay**

Correspondence with the Minister for Employment, dated 27 February 2024

## **3. Devolution of employment support**

*Resolved*, That the Committee inquire into Devolution of employment support.

*Resolved*, That the Committee visit the Netherlands and Finland in June 2024 in connection with its inquiry into devolution of employment support, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

## **4. Benefit levels in the UK**

The Committee considered this matter.

## **5. Carer's Allowance**

Terry Kirton, Carer and Gary Vaux, Head of Money Advice Unit, Hertfordshire County Council, gave oral evidence.

Tamara Sandoul, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Carers UK, Fiona Collie, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Carers Scotland, Professor Sue Yeandle, Professor of Sociology, University of Sheffield and Cristina Odone, Head of Family, Centre for Social Justice, gave oral evidence.

## **Adjournment**

Adjourned until Wednesday 13 March at 9.00am



# Wednesday 13 March

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Neil Coyle

Marsha de Cordova

Nigel Mills

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to the impact on Defined benefit pension schemes after the LDI episode, dated 1 March 2024

### **Fiduciary duties**

ShareAction (FYD0016)

### **Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

BDO LLP (NPS0015)

## 3. Benefit levels in the UK

Draft Report (Benefit levels in the UK), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Second Report of the Committee, HC 142.

## 4. Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund

*Resolved*, That the Committee take part of the evidence to be given by Kristina Kicks and Lee Causer at this day's sitting in private.

Sean Browes, Senior Trustee Representative, Dalriada Trustees Limited and Ben Fairhead, Partner, Arc Pensions Law, gave oral evidence.

Kristina Kicks, Joint Trustee in Bankruptcy of Mr Stuart Garner, Interpath Ltd and Lee Causer, Joint Liquidator of Norton, BDO, gave oral evidence.

Kristina Kicks and Lee Causer gave further oral evidence in private, in accordance with the Committee's Resolution of this day's sitting.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 20 March at 9.00am

## Wednesday 20 March

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

### 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

### 2. Written evidence

*Ordered*, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### **Carer's Allowance**

Terry Kirton (CAA0001)

### **Fiduciary duties**

UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (FYD0017)  
ClientEarth (FYD0018)

### **Defined benefit pension schemes**

Hewlett Packard Pension Association (DBP0101)

### **Plan for Jobs and employment support**

Correspondence with Secretary of State, dated 7 March 2024

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Correspondence with the Chief Coroner, dated 11 March 2024

Correspondence with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, relating to asbestos, dated 12 March 2024

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator relating to the West Midlands Pension Fund, dated 7 March 2024

## **3. Defined benefit pension schemes**

Draft Report (*Defined benefit pension schemes*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Third Report of the Committee, HC 144.

## **4. Statutory Sick Pay**

Draft Report (*Statutory Sick Pay*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 148.

## **5. Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

Dominic Harris, Pensions Ombudsman and Anthony Arter, Interim Chair and Deputy Ombudsman, The Pensions Ombudsman, gave oral evidence.

Tony Raymond, General Counsel and Director of Governance Risk and Assurance, Maria Evgenidou-Wright, Head of Enforcement Proceedings, The Pensions Regulator,

David Taylor, Executive Director and General Counsel and Sara Protheroe, Chief Customer Officer, Pension Protection Fund, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Tuesday 26 March at 9.15am

# Tuesday 26 March

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Marsha de Cordova

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Carer's Allowance**

Hertfordshire County Council (CAA0002)

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (SVC0078)

## 3. Carer's Allowance

*Resolved,* That Robin Walker, on behalf of the Education Select Committee, be invited to attend the meeting on 24 April 2024 relating to Carer's Allowance, pursuant to Standing Order No 137A (1)(e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

## 4. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants

Mims Davies MP, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Viscount Younger of Leckie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Elizabeth Fairburn, Customer Experience Director and Preeta Ramachandran, Southern Area Director, Work and Health Services, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 17 April at 9.15am

## Wednesday 17 April

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Marsha de Cordova

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

### 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

### 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### **Back to Work Plan**

Single Parent Rights (BTW0001)

Z2K (BTW0002)

#### **Fiduciary Duties**

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions dated 17 April 2024.

#### **Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

Correspondence with Dalriada, dated 29 March 2024;

Correspondence with The Deputy Pensions Ombudsman, dated 9 April 2024;

Correspondence with The Pensions Ombudsman, dated 3 April 2024; and

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator, dated 9 April 2024.

Correspondence from the Minister for Employment relating to the Flexible Support Fund, dated 26 March 2024;  
Correspondence from the Minister for Pensions relating to the Child Maintenance Service, dated 26 March 2024;  
Correspondence with the DWP Permanent Secretary relating to access to Household Support Fund for people with No Recourse to Public Funds, dated 25 March 2024;  
Correspondence with the DWP Permanent Secretary relating to Universal Credit managed migration readiness criteria, dated 4 April 2024; and  
Correspondence with the Minister for Employment relating to Below Average Resources: Developing a new poverty measure, dated 4 April 2024.

### 3. Safeguarding vulnerable claimants

The Committee considered this matter.

### 4. Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund

*Ordered,* That part of the oral evidence taken by the Committee on 13 March be reported to the House for publication.

### 5. PHSO's report on women's State Pension age

The Chair declared an interest in relation to the Committee's inquiry into PHSO's report on State Pension age, namely: he was Minister for Pensions between May 2005 and May 2006, which is a period covered by the Ombudsman's report.

*Resolved,* That members of the Women and Equalities Committee and the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee be invited to attend the meeting on 7 May 2024 relating to PHSO's report on women's State Pension Age, pursuant to Standing Order No 137A (1) (e) (Select committees: power to work with other committees).

### 6. Back to Work Plan

Kate Shoosmith, Deputy CEO, Recruitment and Employment Confederation, Jamie Thunder, Senior Policy Adviser, Z2K, Gareth Parry, Programme Director, Employability, Maximus and Ben Harrison, Director, Work Foundation, gave oral evidence.

Ruth Talbot, Founder, Single Parent Rights, Ken Butler, Founder Welfare Rights and Policy Adviser, Disability Rights UK, Nil Güzelgün, Interim Head of Policy and Campaigns, Mind and James Taylor, Executive Director of Strategy, Impact and Social Change, Scope, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 24 April at 9.15am

## Wednesday 24 April

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair  
Debbie Abrahams  
Siobhan Baillie  
Nigel Mills  
Selaine Saxby  
Sir Desmond Swayne

Robin Walker also attended for item 4 under the provisions of paragraph (1)(e) of Standing Order No 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees and Work and Pensions Committee's resolution of 26 March 2024).

### 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

### 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### **Devolution of employment support**

The Zink Project CIO (DES0002)  
Spydr Network (DES0003)  
IPPR Scotland (DES0004)  
Whitehead-Ross Education (DES0005)  
London Borough of Lambeth (DES0006)  
Communities that Work (DES0007)



Local Government Association (DES0008)  
West Midlands Combined Authority (DES0009)  
Hampshire County Council (DES0010)  
Belina Grow Community Interest Company (DES0011)  
Professor Emeritus Dan Finn (DES0012)  
Professor Jonathan Payne, Dr Peter Butler and Dr Jonathan Rose (DES0013)  
Maximus (DES0014)  
Impetus (DES0015)  
British Association for Supported Employment (DES0016)  
Momentic (DES0017)  
Dr Sioned Pearce (DES0018)  
Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place, University of Liverpool (DES0019)  
Centre for Ageing Better (DES0020)  
PeoplePlus Ltd (DES0021)  
Derbyshire County Council (DES0022)  
Bridges Outcomes Partnerships (DES0023)  
Child Poverty Action Group (DES0024)  
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (DES0025)  
Dr Temidayo Eseonu (DES0026)  
North of Tyne Combined Authority on behalf of North East Mayoral Combined Authority (DES0027)  
Shaw Trust (DES0028)  
Fedcap UK (DES0029)  
Central London Forward (DES0030)  
British Chambers of Commerce (DES0031)  
Better Connect Limited (DES0032)  
West London Alliance (WLA) (DES0033)  
City of Wolverhampton Council (DES0034)  
Career Connect (DES0035)  
Mental Health Foundation (DES0036)  
Youth Futures Foundation (DES0037)  
The Prince's Trust (DES0038)  
Employment Related Services Association (DES0039)  
Recro Consulting (DES0040)  
Big Society Capital (BSC) (DES0041)  
Demos (DES0042)

Labour Market Partnerships (DES0043)  
Jobs 22 Limited (DES0044)  
Durham County Council (DES0045)  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (DES0046)  
West Yorkshire Combined Authority (DES0047)  
Ceri Hughes (Researcher at CASE, LSE / Work and Equalities Institute, University of Manchester) (DES0048)  
London Councils (DES0049)  
York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority (DES0050)

### **Disability employment**

Tetyana (Tanya) Krupiy (DYE0001)  
Nigel Cook (DYE0002)  
Jonathan Payne, Dr Peter Butler, & Dr Jonathan Rose (DYE0003)  
Professor Kim Hoque and Professor Nick Bacon (DYE0004)  
University of Bristol Personal Finance Research Centre (DYE0005)  
Alcohol Change (DYE0006)  
Realising the Inclusion of Disabled Employees in Higher Education (RIDE HIGHER) (DYE0007)  
TUC (DYE0008)  
Brown (DYE0009)  
Disability and Youth Transitions project (DYE0010)  
National AIDS Trust (DYE0011)  
Money and Mental Health Policy Institute (DYE0012)  
Dr Alison Allam; Dr Ana Be Pereira; Professor Bethan Evans; Catherine Hale; Dr Morag Rose; Dr Anna Ruddock (DYE0013)  
Good Things Foundation (DYE0014)  
Autistica (DYE0015)  
Youth Futures Foundation (DYE0016)  
Learning and Work Institute (DYE0017)  
Work Foundation (DYE0018)  
Crohn's & Colitis UK (DYE0019)  
MS Society (DYE0020)  
National Film and Television School (DYE0021)  
Sense (DYE0022)  
Natalie Pudaloff (DYE0023)  
Dr Armenak Antinyan, Professor Ian Burn & Professor Melanie Jones (DYE0024)

Dr Christine Grant, Dr Carlo Tramontano, Dr Maria Charalampous, Dr Emma Russell, Dr Deborah Leveroy (DYE0025)  
Bridges Outcomes Partnerships (DYE0026)  
Centre for Neurodiversity Research at Work, Birkbeck, University of London (DYE0027)  
Deaf and Disabled Members Committee and Social Security and Tax Advice Team, Equity Trade Union (DYE0028)  
Health Equity North (DYE0029)  
Helen Lawton Smith and Jacqueline Winstanley (DYE0030)  
Child Poverty Action Group (DYE0031)  
Rethink Mental Illness (DYE0032)  
Shaw Trust (DYE0033)  
Gavin Aitchison, Alisha Barton, Jayne Gosnall, Felicity Guite, Rahela Khan and Mary Passeri (DYE0034)  
Professor Anica Zeyen and Professor Oana Branzei (DYE0035)  
Maximus (DYE0036)  
Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) (DYE0037)  
Disabled Children's Partnership (DYE0038)  
The British Association for Supported Employment (DYE0039)  
Employment Related Services Association (DYE0040)  
The Salvation Army (DYE0041)  
Department for Work and Pensions (DYE0042)  
The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (DYE0043)  
Business Disability Forum (DYE0044)  
Professor Adam Whitworth (DYE0045)  
Enable Works (DYE0046)  
Professor Melanie Jones and Professor Victoria Wass (DYE0049)  
Parkinson's UK (DYE0050)  
Down's Syndrome Association (DYE0051)  
Local Government Association (DYE0052)  
Disability Rights UK (DYE0053)

### **Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

Pension Scams Industry Group (PSIG) (NPS0016)

### **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Correspondence from DWP officials, dated 14 March 2024;

Correspondence from the Chief Coroner, dated 15 March 2024.

Correspondence with the DWP Permanent Secretary relating to access to Household Support Fund for people with No Recourse to Public Funds, dated 16 April 2024;

Correspondence with the the Change and Resilience Director General and Senior Responsible Owner Universal Credit relating to Universal Credit managed migration readiness criteria, dated 16 April 2024;

Correspondence to the DWP Permanent Secretary relating to state pension underpayments—divorce, dated 15 April 2024.

### 3. Disability employment

The Committee considered this matter.

### 4. Carer's Allowance

The Chair declared an interest in relation to the Committee's inquiry into PHSO's report on State Pension age, namely: he was Minister for Pensions between May 2005 and May 2006, which is a period covered by the Ombudsman's report.

Andy McGowan, Policy and Practice Manager, Carers Trust, Becca Lacey, Reader in Social and Lifecourse Epidemiology, St George's University of London and Alek-Zander Chullan-Hoyte, Young adult carer, gave oral evidence.

Mims Davies MP, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Vikki Knight, Director, Fraud, Error & Debt Strategy and Andrew Latto, Deputy Director (Devolution, Pensioner Benefits and Carer's Allowance), Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 1 May at 9.15am

# Wednesday 1 May

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Neil Coyle

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Devolution of employment support**

Department for Work and Pensions (DES0051)

West of England Combined Authority (DES0052)

### **Disability employment**

Community Outreach and Support Team COAST - Tricuro (DYE0054)

Leonard Cheshire (DYE0055)

Chartered Management Institute (DYE0056)

Scope (DYE0057)

### **Norton pensions schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

Pension Protection Fund (NPS0017)

## 3. Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund

The Committee considered this matter.

## 4. Devolution of employment support

The Committee considered this matter.

## 5. The Pensions Dashboard Programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 6. Pensioner poverty

The Committee considered this matter.

## 7. Work and Pensions Committee attendance statistics

The Committee considered this matter.

## 8. Disability employment

Laura Davis, Chief Executive Officer, British Association of Supported Employment, Nic Murray, Policy Manager, Leonard Cheshire and Professor Kim Hoque, Co-founder, Disability@Work, gave oral evidence.

Professor Helen Lawton-Smith, Professor of Entrepreneurship, Birkbeck, University of London, Dr Christine Grant, Associate Professor (Research), Centre for Healthcare and Communities, Coventry University, Professor Ian Burn, Professor of Economics, University of Liverpool and Jacqueline Winstanley, Chief Executive Officer, Universal Inclusion, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 7 May at 12 noon

## Tuesday 7 May

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

David Linden

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

Caroline Nokes also attended for item 3 under the provisions of paragraph (1)(e) of Standing Order No 137A (Select committees: power to work with other committees and Work and Pensions Committee's resolution of 17 April 2024).

## 1. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **PHSO report on women's State Pension age**

Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) (WSP0001)

## 2. PHSO report on women's State Pension age

The Chair declared a non-fiduciary interest namely that he was Minister for Pensions between May 2005 and May 2006, which is a period covered by the Ombudsman's report.

Caroline Nokes declared a non-fiduciary interest in that she was a DWP Minister between July 2016 and June 2017 and would have answered on parliamentary business in this area.

Angela Madden, Chair, Jane Cowley, Campaign Director, Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI), Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Chair and Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on State Pension Inequality for Women, gave oral evidence.

Rebecca Hilsenrath, Interim Ombudsman and Karl Banister, Director of Legal and Casework, Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 8 May at 9.15am

## Wednesday 8 May

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Neil Coyle

David Linden

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Back to Work Plan**

Single Parent Rights (BTW0003)

Mind (BTW0004)

### **Carer's Allowance**

Correspondence with the National Audit Office, dated 8 May 2024.

### **Devolution of employment support**

The Salvation Army (DES0053)

### **Disability employment**

Long Covid Support (DYE0058)

Society of Occupational Medicine (DYE0059)

### **Norton pension schemes and the Fraud Compensation Fund**

Correspondence with The Pensions Regulator, dated 30 April 2024.

Correspondence to the DWP Permanent Secretary relating to state pension underpayments—divorce, dated 1 May 2024.

## 3. Devolution of employment support

Andrew Phillips, Senior Researcher, Demos, Sinead, O'Regan, Employability and Skills Manager, Belfast City Council, Tony Wilson, Director, Institute for Employment Studies and Christopher Rocks, Lead Economist and Head of the Secretariat for the Commission for Healthier Working Lives, Health Foundation, gave oral evidence.



Professor Jonathan Payne, Professor of Work, Employment and Skills, De Montfort University, Anna Shiel, Chief Investment Officer, Better Society Capital, Ben Gadsby, Head of Policy and Research, Impetus and Pegs Bailey, National Third Sector Employability Partnership Engagement Manager, TSI Network, gave oral evidence.

## Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 15 May at 9.15am.

## Wednesday 15 May

### Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Neil Coyle

Marsha de Cordova

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Sir Desmond Swayne

### 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

### 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

#### **Back to Work Plan**

Recruitment and Employment Confederation (BTW0005)

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated 15 May 2024.

#### **Carer's Allowance**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated 15 May 2024.

## **Devolution of employment support**

Ingeus (DES0054)

## **Disability employment**

British Association of Supported Employment (DYE0060)

Dr Christine Grant, Dr Carlo Tramontano, Dr Maria Charalampous, Dr Emma Russell and Dr Deborah Leveroy (DYE0061)

Professor Helen Lawton Smith and Jacqueline Winstanley (DYE0062)

## **PHSO report on women's State Pension age**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated 15 May 2024.

## **3. Disability employment**

Becca Stacey, Senior Research Officer, Money and Mental Health Policy Institute, Ceri Smith, Head of Policy and Evidence, MS Society, Ruth Wakeman, Director of Services, Advocacy and Evidence, Crohn's and Colitis UK and Russell Fleming, Head of Communications, ME Association, gave oral evidence.

Georgia Harper, Policy Manager, Autistica, Alison Thwaite, WorkFit Employment Development Manager, Down's Syndrome Association and Evan John, Policy and Public Affairs Adviser, Sense, gave oral evidence.

## **Adjournment**

Adjourned until Wednesday 22 May at 9.15am.

## **Monday 20 May**

The following paper was reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 4 March 2020:

Correspondence with the Minister for Employment relating to income-related ESA claimants and Universal Credit, dated 20 May 2024.

# Wednesday 22 May

## Members present:

Sir Stephen Timms, in the Chair

Debbie Abrahams

Siobhan Baillie

Neil Coyle

Marsha de Cordova

David Linden

Nigel Mills

Selaine Saxby

Dr Ben Spencer

Sir Desmond Swayne

## 1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

## 2. Written evidence

*Ordered,* That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication:

### **Carer's Allowance**

Dr Rebecca Lacey (CAA0003)

Correspondence with the NAO, dated 17 May 2024.

### **Disability employment**

Versus Arthritis (DYE0063)

Correspondence with the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, dated 15 May 2024.

### **Fiduciary Duties**

Correspondence with the Minister for Pensions, dated 17 May 2024.

Correspondence from the DWP Permanent Secretary relating to Fraud and Error, dated 16 May 2024; and

Correspondence from the Minister for Pensions relating to Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations.

### 3. Devolution of employment support

The Committee considered this matter.

### 4. Benefit levels in the UK

Draft Special Report (*Benefit levels in the UK: Government's response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2023-24*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Second Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee of the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

### 5. The work of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Rt. Hon Mel Stride MP, Secretary of State and Peter Schofield, Permanent Secretary, Department for Work and Pensions, gave oral evidence.

### Adjournment

Adjourned until Wednesday 12 June at 9.15am.

## Thursday 23 May

The following papers were reported to the House for publication under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 4 March 2020:

#### **Devolution of employment support**

Fedcap (DES0055)

#### **Disability employment**

Sense (DYE0064)

Thomas Pocklington Trust (DYE0065)

## **Norton pension schemes and the fraud Compensation Fund**

Correspondence with the Secretary of State, dated 23 May 2024

## **Safeguarding vulnerable claimants**

Correspondence with Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, dated 23 May 2024

Roundtable summary note

Private session with DWP Officials: summary note

Summary of unpublished written evidence

Survey results

Correspondence from the Equality and Human Rights Commission relating to the Investigation and assessment of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, dated 22 May 2024.

The following papers were reported to the House under the power given to the Chair by Resolution of the Committee of 4 March 2020:

## **Norton pension schemes and the fraud Compensation Fund**

Correspondence with Leicestershire Police, dated 2022 and 2024.

# Appendix: Declarations of interest by members of the Committee and specialist advisers

Declarations made by members of the Committee and Specialist Advisers in previous Sessions of this Parliament can be found in previous Session's formal minutes:

- [Session 2019-21 Formal Minutes](#)
- [Session 2021-22 Formal Minutes](#)
- [Session 2022-23 Formal Minutes](#)

## (i) Members of the Committee

### **Marsha de Cordova MP**

24 January 2024: Register of Members' Interests

#### 3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

Name of donor: Getir UK Limited

Address of donor: WeWork, 30 Stamford Street, London SE1 9LQ

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets with hospitality for Tottenham v Liverpool, total value £800

Date received: 6 November 2022

Date accepted: 6 November 2022

Donor status: company, registration 12548945

(Registered 21 November 2022)

Name of donor: Premier League

Address of donor: Brunel Building, 57 North Wharf Road, London W2 1HQ

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Two tickets and hospitality at a football match, total value £1,200

Date received: 2 May 2023

Date accepted: 2 May 2023

Donor status: company, registration 02719699

(Registered 17 May 2023)

Name of donor: Lawn Tennis Association

Address of donor: 100 Priory Lane Roehampton, London SW15 5JQ

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Tickets with hospitality for me and a guest to attend the Cinch Championship, Queens Club, value £656

Date received: 24 June 2023

Date accepted: 24 June 2023

Donor status: company, registration 07459469

(Registered 21 July 2023)

#### 4. Visits outside the UK

Name of donor: Centre for Turkish Studies (CEFTUS)

Address of donor: 39 York Road, London, SE1 7NQ

Estimate of the probable value (or amount of any donation): Flights, accommodation, ground transport and meals, value £1,080

Destination of visit: Turkey

Dates of visit: 10-15 April 2023

Purpose of visit: Delegation of MPs and journalists to learn about the current political situation ahead of the elections in Turkey in May, and to learn about the response to the Earthquake earlier this year.

(Registered 28 April 2023)