



Work and Pensions Committee

27 November 2024

The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP

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

Dear Liz

Evidence session – 13 November 2024

Thank you very much for giving evidence to the Committee on 13 November. We found it a very constructive and helpful session. There were a number of issues where we agreed it would be helpful for you to provide further information in writing, including:

- your position on transitional protections for severely disabled people transferring to Universal Credit ([Q24](#)); and
- when you plan to introduce the proposed Fraud and Error Bill ([Q44](#)).

During the session, we also discussed the previous Committee's report on [Defined Benefit Pension Schemes](#), which made recommendations on the indexation of benefits built up before April 1997:

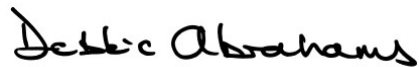
- In relation to pension compensation schemes – the Pension Protection Fund and Financial Assistance Scheme - it said the Government should legislate to provide indexation in respect of pre-1997 rights, where the rules of the original scheme provided for that (para 151 and 161).
- In relation to occupational pension schemes, it recommended that TPR undertake research on the number of schemes that had discretion in their rules to provide indexation on pre-1997 benefits and how they had used that discretion (para 83). In the context of improved scheme funding and questions about the deployment of surpluses, it recommended that DWP and TPR explore ways to ensure that scheme members' reasonable expectations for benefit enhancement were met, particularly where there was a history of discretionary increases (para 89).

You said you would ask the Minister for Pensions to write to the Committee in respect of the first matter, for which we are very grateful ([Q50](#)). It would also be helpful if we could have a response on the second point. Given the impact of having part of their income frozen, on

scheme members who are disproportionately older, we would be grateful for an indication of the timescale for addressing both these issues.

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Monday 16 December. 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 that reads "Debbie Abrahams". The script is cursive and fluid.

Debbie Abrahams MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee