



Work and Pensions Committee

17 January 2025

Dr Antonia Dietmann
Chief Psychologist and Head of Profession for Occupational Psychology
Department for Work and Pensions

Dear Dr Dietmann,

Thank you very much for [giving evidence](#) to the Work and Pensions Committee during its session on safeguarding vulnerable claimants. We recognise the time and effort required to prepare for these sessions and the number of people involved.

In the session we discussed, amongst other topics, the role you undertake leading a scientific advisory team to provide advice to DWP's policy group; and about the work of psychologists in Jobcentres. Reflecting on the session, it would be helpful if you could answer the following questions:

- In the session ([Q44](#)), you said that your policy advisory team acts as a source of scientific advice for policy officials when they are developing a wide range of policies. In the session we heard from Dr Gail Allsopp, who told us that her team reviews policies from a clinical governance perspective. From what perspective are you providing scientific advice to policy officials? and what are the aims of your team in doing so?

For example, in question 45, you said that when reviewing a policy, you did not exclusively look at the mental health impacts. It would be helpful if, in response to this letter you could set out the whole range of factors that your team does consider when asked to input into policy development. In addition, it would be helpful to know if and how this relates to safeguarding.

- Could you please set out to us how the role of DWP's Chief Psychologist has changed since it was held by David Carew?
- Could you please provide an example of the metrics used to measure the success of support provided by psychologists in Jobcentres, to help move people into work?

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by 5 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,

Debbie Abrahams MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee