



Work and Pensions Committee

26 February 2025

Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Minister for Social Security and Disability

Dear Stephen,

Safeguarding vulnerable claimants

Thank you very much to you and your officials for giving evidence to the Committee on 12 February, as part of our inquiry into safeguarding vulnerable claimants. We recognise the time and effort required to prepare for these sessions and the number of people involved in doing so. It was helpful to hear about work the Department has undertaken relating to safeguarding, since we last heard from Ministers and officials in the previous Parliament; and to hear about how the Government intends to approach safeguarding moving forwards.

Thanks also to your fellow witnesses on the panel, Neil Couling, Director General, Fraud, Disability and Health, who wrote to the Committee on 25 February with further information on the Transitional Severe Disability Premium Element.

In the session, you said it would be possible to share further information with us to confirm:

- The number of claimants who, as part of managed migration, have been through an Enhanced Support Journey, and that have been referred for a home visit; and

It would also be helpful if you could please confirm to us:

- If it is the Department's position, that it uses a 'description' or a 'definition' of vulnerability. For example, in [written evidence DWP](#) sent to our predecessor Committee last Parliament, it said it used a "description" of vulnerability. By contrast when you and officials appeared before us on 12 February 2025, Elizabeth Fairburn, Customer Experience Director at DWP, referred to the Department using a "definition".

I would be grateful for your response to these questions by Thursday 13 March, so we can incorporate this into our final report. 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