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HM Treasury

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Debbie Abrahams MP
Chair, Work and Pensions
Committee

24 March 2025

Dear Debbie,

Thank you for your letter of 5 March to the Secretary of State. I am responding on her behalf.

The government understands that the decision not to introduce a compensation scheme would be of interest to many, including the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO), Parliament, taxpayers and of course 1950s-born women. We are accountable to Parliament and have been transparent about the decisions we have made. We have published a detailed response to the PHSO's investigation, setting out our decision in full, and on the same day the Secretary of State and Minister for Lords made oral statements to the House and answered questions from members.

You raise the question of a compensation scheme's design. The [detailed response](#) covers the government decision on financial remedy at paragraphs 80 to 112, with considerations of designing and implementing a compensation scheme at paragraphs 93 to 104.

Thank you for referring us to the evidence that Karl Banister of the PHSO gave to the Committee. We understand that he suggested a compensation scheme that involved self-certification by 1950s-born women and also involved the Department for Work and Pensions phoning applicants to assess their claims. I can confirm that we considered schemes that assessed individual claims and we considered self-certification schemes.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to discussions with you and your committee on this and a range of wider issues in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Torsten Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'B'.

Torsten Bell MP

Minister for Pensions