



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Andrew Western MP
Parliamentary Under- Secretary of
State (Minister for Transformation)
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA
www.gov.uk

Email:
minister.transformation@dwp.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dwp

08 December 2025

Debbie Abrahams
Work and Pensions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Debbie,

**Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) Act 2025 Codes of
Practice Consultation**

DWP has today launched a public consultation on the Codes of Practice ("Codes") associated with Public Authorities (Fraud, Error and Recovery) (PAFER) Act 2025. These Codes cover the following areas:

- Obtaining Information to Support Fraud Investigations in the Welfare System
- Recovery of Debt via Direct Deduction Order and Disqualification from Driving
- Eligibility Verification Notices.

The powers granted through the Act will allow the Department to better identify, prevent and deter social security fraud and error and enable the better recovery of debt owed to the taxpayer.

As we made clear through the passage of the Act, these Codes are important safeguards that will support effective and proportionate application of these powers. They are necessary pieces of departmental guidance and will guide the operation and management of the new powers by outlining, in more detail, how the powers taken through this Act should be delivered, reflecting the newly passed legislation.

This Government is committed to a full and thorough consultation to allow input from a broad range of perspectives which will help to inform the final versions of the Codes. Consequently, the consultation on these Codes will take place

over 12 weeks. This means that the Codes for each measure will be published ahead of the relevant measures commencing implementation.

I wanted to share with you and the committee that the consultation has launched today, Monday 8 December 2025, and run until Friday 27 February 2026. This consultation can be found on gov.uk.

In parallel, the Public Sector Fraud Authority are also launching a public consultation on the Civil Penalties Code of Practice specified in the Act to the same timelines.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andrew Western", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Andrew Western MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Transformation)