



# Work and Pensions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 8976 Email [workpencom@parliament.uk](mailto:workpencom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/workpencom](http://www.parliament.uk/workpencom)

From the Chair

Kit Malthouse MP  
Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9DA

12 June 2018

Dear Kit

## **Funeral expenses**

Thank you for your letter dated 24 May regarding funeral expenses. The Committee is delighted that the Competition and Markets Authority has since launched a market study into the funerals sector.

In your letter (Q1), you state:

We continue to liaise with the funeral industry on cost transparency and the elements of a 'standard' package but to date we have not secured the level of assistance and commitment we would have liked from them on this matter.

I would be grateful if you could please elaborate on that lack of co-operation:

1. Which industry bodies and companies have you engaged with?
2. Has any progress at all been made?
3. What forms of assistance have not been secured, and on how many occasions?
4. What actions have betrayed the inadequate commitment of the industry?

In Q3, you state that the Department "do not know the cause behind the decline in applications" for the Funeral Expenses Payment (FEP). You later state (Q5) that the Department's priorities are to improve the FEP and raise awareness of it.

5. Do you therefore aspire to address the decline in, or even increase, the number of applications for the FEP?
6. Have you set any such targets?
7. What steps (a) have you taken and (b) do you intend to take to raise awareness of the FEP?

8. Do you have a specific budget allocated to this work?

With best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Field', written in a cursive style.

**Rt Hon Frank Field MP**  
**Chair**