From the Permanent Secretary

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Alison Pickard
Committee Assistant
Work and Pensions Committee
House of Commons
London
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Dear Alison,

Thank you for notifying us of the scope the Work and Pensions Committee enquiry into pensions regulation and the Pensions Protection Fund (PPF), and the intention to call Alan Rubenstein from the PPF, Lesley Titcomb from the Pensions Regulator (tPR), and Baroness Altmann, the Minister for Pensions as witnesses.

As Permanent Secretary for the Department that sponsors tPR and PPF, I thought it might be helpful to make two observations about the hearing on behalf of all three witnesses.

First, I fully understand why the Committee should choose to convene the enquiry at the present time and it is entirely proper for the bodies to answer its questions on matters accessible in the public domain such as the adequacy and use of regulatory powers, resourcing and prioritisation of work, and the PPF levy system.

Second, I trust the Committee will recognise the potential difficulty for witnesses to comment publicly on individual cases. As a result, the witnesses will need to weigh the extent to which answering a line of questioning might risk prejudicing the outcome of ongoing investigations or otherwise affect the ability of tPR and PPF to carry out effectively the functions that Parliament has conferred on them.

I am copying this letter to Lesley Titcomb, Alan Rubenstein, and to Baroness Altmann.

Yours sincerely,

P.P. Rebecca Thompson

Robert Devereux