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for Work &
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Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Select Committee
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Dear Frank,

WORK AND PENSIONS SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY: MANAGED MIGRATION TO UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Thank you for your letter of 24 October following my appearance at the Work and Pensions Select Committee (WPSC) on 18 October.

During the session, the WPSC asked to be provided with the draft Managed Migration regulations for consideration before they are laid in Parliament, and I said that I would consult with the Secretary of State to consider the request.

There is a clear process for scrutiny of draft social security regulations; this is the remit of the Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC). In the case of the Managed Migration regulations, SSAC undertook a public consultation on the draft regulations over the summer, to which everyone, including the WPSC, had the opportunity to respond.

Whilst I appreciate the Committee's request, I do not think it would be appropriate to diverge from the standard process for the scrutiny of draft regulations and delay their introduction.

As I said during the WPSC session, many of the points raised by the Committee echo those that we have been hearing from stakeholders who have themselves responded to the SSAC consultation. We will publish SSAC's report and the Department's full response to it when we lay the regulations.

During the WPSC session, Neil Couling and I both agreed to provide some more information to the Committee on a number of points, which you refer to in your letter on 24 October.

It is right that we take the time to fully consider SSAC's recommendations and our response to them. As such, Neil and I will provide the updates to the Committee after the regulations are laid and the SSAC report and Government response are published.

Kind regards,



Alok Sharma MP
Minister of State for Employment