



Work and Pensions Committee

House of Commons | London | SW1A 0AA

Tel 020 7219 5831 Email workpencom@parliament.uk Website www.parliament.uk/workpencom

From the Chair

2 November 2018

Alok Sharma MP
Minister of State for Employment
Department for Work and Pensions

Dear Alok,

Universal Credit: managed migration

Thank you for your letter of 1 November. I am sure you understand that the Committee will be deeply disappointed by your decision not to share with us in draft the regulations for managed migration before they are laid.

Your letter explains that there has already been an opportunity to scrutinise the regulations. That is true of the version published in draft earlier this year. There has, however, been no opportunity at all for anyone to scrutinise the version of the regulations that the Department now plans to lay.

Given the strength of the concern about the draft regulations published in June, which many experts believed risked plunging vulnerable people deeper into poverty, we can only hope that the revised version has changed beyond recognition. But we do not yet know what changes the Social Security Advisory Committee has recommended to the Government, nor whether you have accepted any or all of its recommendations.

I hope you would agree that it is reasonable for the Committee to seek an opportunity to assess the SSAC's report and the Government's response to it, as well as the new regulations, before this very important matter comes before the House. If the Government has accepted the SSAC's advice, and has fully addressed the very serious concerns expressed to the SSAC during its consultation, then our scrutiny could be very quick and need not cause any significant delay.

Might I therefore ask please whether you could urgently reconsider this decision?

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

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair