From the Chair

Justin Tomlinson MP
Minister for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance
Department for Work and Pensions

Dear Justin,

**Widowed Parent’s Allowance**

In August this year, the Supreme Court ruled that the law on widowed parent’s allowance is incompatible with the principles of European human rights law, as the benefit is not available to a surviving unmarried partner. On 5 September you told the House that you were carefully considering the Court’s judgment and how the Department should proceed in light of it.

Almost three months have now passed since the Supreme Court’s ruling. That ruling applies to Widowed Parent’s Allowance, but the same injustice is built into the rules on eligibility for Bereavement Support Payment. The Childhood Bereavement Network estimates that, with each day of delay, another five grieving parents and their children will be denied the support to which they should be entitled.

Since this week is Children’s Grief Awareness Week, might I please ask you for an update on the Government’s progress in righting this profound injustice?

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

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair