Dear Guy,

Thank you for your letter of 15 January about the suspension and closure of complaints relating to the state pension age.

We understand the argument that these matters now fall to be determined by the courts. You will know from your own correspondence, however, that many of the women who have made complaints believe that at least some of the matters they have complained about are not relevant to the judicial review. They believe that it would be possible for the Department or ICE to continue to investigate those elements of their complaints which are not relevant to the legal proceedings.

Might I therefore please ask you to provide:

1) a copy of the claimant’s claim form and grounds of claim, and the DWP’s acknowledgment of service and summary grounds of defence;

2) if the Department holds one, a copy or transcript of the judgment at the permission hearing; and

3) a description of any action the DWP has taken, with the agreement of the claimants, to ensure that the judicial review can be heard as quickly as possible. For complainants, who are facing considerable uncertainty, the ongoing delay must be hugely frustrating.

I was also surprised to read in your letter that “An update explaining [the situation] will be added to the gov.uk website, and anyone who has an affected complaint we will notify.” Given that permission for judicial review was granted in late November, might I ask why that information had not already been provided to complainants when you wrote in mid-January?
With best wishes and I look forward to hearing from you,

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair