From the Chair

Gareth Davies
Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office

10 October 2019

Dear Gareth,

Evaluating Bereavement Support Payment

The Department for Work and Pensions has committed to evaluating Bereavement Support Payment once there is "robust, meaningful data in sufficient quantities".¹ The Department told the Committee that evaluation would cover "looking at people by age, by gender, by other sources of income, how BSP would interact with other benefits, and what people's outcomes are after they have flowed off the benefit".²

The Department's most recent figures state that there are 71,000 BSP claims in payment, with around 25,000 completed claims. The Department has, however, declined to indicate the volume of claims or time period which would be adequate to begin to evaluate the benefit.

Please could you outline, were the NAO asked to conduct the evaluation, what type, quantity and quality of claimant data you would consider sufficient?

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

Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair

¹ Oral evidence taken before the Work and Pensions Committee, 17 July 2019 (HC 2023), Q109
² Q111