Dear Frank,

Following my letter in June about the forthcoming update on the PIP administrative exercise, I write to confirm the data was published today.

The exercise is reviewing claims to check whether claimants are eligible for more support under PIP following the MH and RJ judgments. The MH judgment changed the way the Department considers how ‘overwhelming psychological distress’ affects a claimant’s ability to plan and follow a journey. The RJ judgment changed the way the Department considers whether a claimant can complete a PIP activity safely and if supervision is required, by considering both the likelihood of harm occurring, and the severity and nature of the harm that might occur.

The administrative exercise began in June last year and since then the Department has been focused on ensuring all claimants affected by these judgments receive any additional support they are entitled to. We are intent on making sure everyone who is affected by the judgements is identified.

The published data shows that numbers benefitting from this exercise are lower than the original estimates would suggest. The original estimates were done before the final guidance, which implemented the judgment, had been produced. There was therefore significant uncertainty around the estimates as set out at the time.

The guidance that implemented the judgment was developed in consultation with MIND and other key stakeholders. We have a comprehensive quality assurance process in place, so that we have confidence in the decisions being made as part of the exercise. We also regularly engage with key stakeholders and are committed to listening to, and acting on, any concerns they may have about the exercise.

My officials would be happy to meet and talk you through the figures in more detail. If you would like to meet, could you please contact Karen Elsmore or Jane Porter on the below contact details.

I would like to assure you that the Department remains committed to ensuring that everyone who may benefit from the judgments is identified and receives the full support to which they are entitled.
I hope this information is helpful.

Contact details:
Karen Elsmore, karen.elsmore@dwp.gov.uk,
Jane Porter, jane.porter1@dwp.gov.uk,

Kind regards,

Justin Tomlinson MP
Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work