



Women and Equalities Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From the Chair

Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills

1 Victoria Street

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Dear Sajid,

I write regarding the joint BIS/EHRC research and report on discrimination against women during pregnancy and maternity. As is clear from the first findings report published in the autumn, this research has uncovered some shocking attitudes and statistics.

My Committee has been awaiting publication of the final report, alongside the EHRC's recommendations and the Government response, in order to launch an inquiry into this important issue. We were initially told that publication was expected in January and had planned our programme accordingly. This was then delayed to February, and I am now very disappointed to learn that the report is not expected until March.

We had factored into our plans flexibility to accommodate minor delays, but we were very disappointed to have been forced to postpone our first evidence session when it became clear that these documents would not be published in time for us to go ahead. Further, it still is not clear when we will be able to launch this inquiry and why there have been such long delays in agreeing and publishing a report on such a hugely important issue.

I would be grateful if you would let me know the reasons for these delays and when you expect to be able to publish.

Yours sincerely

Rt Hon Maria Miller MP

Chair, Women and Equalities Committee