



# Work and Pensions Committee

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From the Chair

30 October 2019

Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions

*Dear Thérèse*

## **Government response to the Committee's Thirtieth Report of Session 2017-19 on Overpayment of Carer's Allowance**

The Committee received the Government's response to our Thirtieth Report of the last session, on Overpayment of Carer's Allowance, on 9 October.

The Committee has asked me to write to express its disappointment with the Department's response. The response does not state clearly whether the Department has accepted, accepted in principle, or rejected each recommendation. In some cases (for example, the responses to recommendations 8, 18, and 19), even a careful reading does not clearly reveal whether a recommendation has been accepted or not.

In the case of recommendation 6, the Department has only commented on the first part of the recommendation, and failed to respond to our recommendation that the Department set targets for investigating flagged overpayments. The Committee expects that the Department consider seriously each of its recommendations, and where it is not able to accept a recommendation, clearly state why not.

Whilst much of the Department's further work to address overpayments of Carer's Allowance is welcome, we are particularly disappointed that the Department did not accept recommendation 4, on how it should deal with affected claimants, particularly in cases where there were substantial administrative failings by the Department or where the Department's own advice to claimants was unclear.

The Committee would therefore ask that the Department provides a further response which:

1. Makes clear which recommendations have been accepted and which rejected;



2. Includes the Department's response to all parts of our recommendations, and stating, where relevant, why it cannot accept a recommendation; and
3. Reconsiders your response to recommendation 4, in light of the significant failings of the Department in this particular case.

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

**Rt Hon Frank Field MP**  
**Chair**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank Field', written in a cursive style.