



Department
for Work &
Pensions

The Rt Hon DAVID GAUKE MP
Secretary of State for Work & Pensions

The Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee
14 Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NB

28 September 2017

Dear Frank

Let me first say that I am very grateful to the Work and Pensions Select Committee for the reports you mention in your letter of 25 September. Whilst the Department of course endeavours to respond to the Committee within 2 months of each report being published, there are frequently instances where it is more pragmatic to align our response with upcoming milestones in terms of policy or Government business.

As you point out in your letter, there are recommendations in the Committee's report of Self-employment and the Gig Economy that are within the remit of the Taylor Review. The Government will respond to those recommendations in its forthcoming response to Matthew Taylor's Review later this year. We intend to provide a separate response to recommendations not covered by the Taylor Review shortly after conference recess.

With regard to the Disability Employment Gap response, the Government is committed to improving employment outcomes for disabled people and people with long-term health conditions. The manifesto commitment now underpins this with a clear and time-bound goal: to see 1 million more disabled people into work over the next 10 years.

We published Improving Lives; the Work, Health and Disability Green Paper on 31 October 2016, which set out the action we plan to take and consulted on proposals for wider reform. We are now carefully considering the consultation responses and next steps for longer-term reform and will set these out in the autumn.

Over the summer, DCLG and DWP have carefully considered the Committee's recommendations in its report on the Future of Supported Housing. We are preparing to announce further details of the funding model for supported housing later in the autumn and will respond to the committee's recommendation as part of that announcement.

Together with colleagues in the Home Office, we have been considering our response to the Committees recommendations in its report on Support for Victims of Modern Slavery. We appreciate that this has taken longer than usual following the General Election, but we are now in the process of getting cross government clearance to the Government Response and will be submitting it shortly.

We will be in a position to provide the Government's response to the Committee's recommendations on Youth Employment later this autumn. Following the recent election and our new manifesto, setting out our commitment to providing targeted support for young unemployed 18-24 year olds, we are considering the findings in the report, the design of the Youth Obligation for 18-21 year olds (which went live as planned on 26 April 2017) and our overall package of support for 18-24 year old claimants.

Yours ever
David

The Rt Hon David Gauke MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS