



## Work and Pensions Committee

14 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NB

Tel 020 7219 5831 Email [workpencom@parliament.uk](mailto:workpencom@parliament.uk) Website [www.parliament.uk/workpencom](http://www.parliament.uk/workpencom)

13 December 2017

Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1A 2AA

*Dear Theresa*

### **Protection for victims of modern slavery**

The Committee recently received the Government's response to its April 2017 report on *Victims of Modern Slavery*. We welcome the Government's steps to collect data on re-trafficking and improve the training on modern slavery provided to DWP staff. We also welcomed the October 2017 announcement of an extension of the move-on period following a conclusive grounds decision from 14 to 45 days.

The Committee was, however, concerned by the Government's rejection of some of its recommendations to provide continued protection for victims. The recommendation of granting one year's leave to remain to confirmed victims of slavery was rejected on the questionable grounds that it could increase immigration by providing incentives to pose as a victim. Similarly the recommendation that confirmed victims of slavery, who often do not have documentation such as payslips, be exempt from the Habitual Residence Test was rejected on the grounds that it could increase the risk of benefit fraud by those victims. I strongly question whether these priorities are consistent with the world-leading compassionate approach towards victims of this most despicable crime taken by the Government under your leadership as Home Secretary and Prime Minister.

In your letter of 22 March 2017 you kindly offered a meeting to discuss the Committee's work on modern slavery once it was complete. I wonder if you would now be prepared to arrange that meeting to discuss the Government's response?

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

Rt Hon Frank Field MP  
Chair

*Frank Field*