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The Rt Hon Esther McVey MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
[secretaryofstate@dwp.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:secretaryofstate@dwp.gsi.gov.uk)

17 May 2018

### Carer's Allowance Supplement

I am writing to raise my concerns around issues with the data being provided by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to support delivery of Carer's Allowance Supplement (CAS), and to seek your personal assurance that the most recent commitment by your officials will be met.

As you know, our officials in Scottish Government and the DWP have been working collaboratively for some time on the technical solution for delivering CAS payments. The intention is that if a carer is resident in Scotland and receiving payment of Carer's Allowance on the relevant qualifying dates, they will be entitled to receive a payment of CAS from Scottish Government. Data to enable these payments is to be provided by DWP. However during the detailed design work on CAS, DWP identified that the SG data requirements could not be met by the Carer's Allowance Computer System (CACS-R) solution for the initial April 2018 qualifying date.

A revised source of data to meet SG requirements was identified, using DWP Data and Analytics information, and was agreed by both parties on 09 March 2018. However on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, DWP advised that the revised solution was unable to provide three of the data items requested. The missing data relates to the correct contact details for carers with appointees or a power of attorney, those with a sensitive record status, and carers with an accessibility flag identifying specific communications requirements.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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The absence of this information will impact on the level of service SG can provide and will require us to identify alternative ways to communicate, advise and support those affected. It is particularly disappointing that this will include some of the most vulnerable carers in Scotland, and that it arises only 10 days after agreement to provide all the necessary data was reached between our respective officials.

Both SG officials and DWP officials continue to work closely to explore further solutions for the provision of the three data items that the revised solution is currently unable to provide.

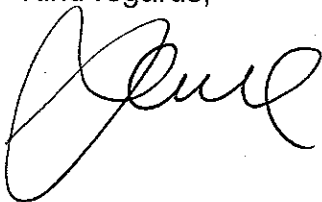
DWP have assured our officials that the three data items missing for the first April 2018 eligibility date will be available for the second October 2018 eligibility date.

I am now seeking your assurance that DWP will deliver all the data items in full as agreed for the October 18 eligibility date and that the CACS-R system will be ready to be utilised to provide a full set of data items for all remaining CAS eligibility and payment dates.

In order to ensure the relevant Committee of the Scottish Parliament is kept up to date, I am copying this letter to them and to Rt Hon David Mundell, Secretary Of State for Scotland.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



**JEANE FREEMAN**

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