



Department
for Work &
Pensions

Ministerial Correspondence
Caxton House
Tothill Street
LONDON
SW1H 9DA

0207 340 4000

www.gov.uk

ministers@dwp.gov.uk

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP
Email:
SJSS.committee@parliament.scot

Date: 24 May 2024

Dear Collette Stevenson MSP,

We welcome the contribution made to the debate by the Committee's commissioned analysis. The additional costs of disability is an important area of evidence for the Department for Work and Pensions and last year we published research on the Uses of Health and Disability Benefits which provided a qualitative picture of the types of costs faced by disabled people.¹ The department also keeps abreast of academic research into the extra costs of disability.

In addition, the Disability Action Plan has a commitment to improving the understanding of the cost of living for disabled people with the Cabinet Office Disability Unit working to build the evidence base in this area and provide insights into disabled people's experiences. As part of this, DWP officials are working with the Disability Unit on building cross-government understanding of extra costs.

On Monday 29th April, DWP published a Green Paper consultation on Personal Independence Payment (PIP). This Green Paper looks at different options to reshape the current welfare system so that we can provide better targeted support to those who need it most. Throughout this consultation we want to explore what the types of extra costs disabled people or people with long-term health conditions have, recognising each individual has different costs and experiences. I would encourage all stakeholders to input to the consultation which can be done via this link:

¹ [Uses of Health and Disability Benefits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/uses-of-health-and-disability-benefits)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/modernising-support-for-independent-living-the-health-and-disability-green-paper>.

With kind regards,
James Younger

The Viscount Younger of Leckie

Parliamentary-Under-Secretary of State