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The Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms MP
Minister of State
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

Our Ref: MP10314

5 August 2026

Dear Stephen,

Re: Work capability reassessments and the backlog for claimants with worsening health conditions

I am writing to follow up on the exchange we had in the House in March, and on a case that has since made clear the scale of the problem I raised with you then.

In March, I told you that Scope's research had found only 7% of work capability assessments carried out in 2025 were reassessments for existing claimants, down from 19% the year before. I asked what further action you would take to reduce waiting times so that disabled people are not left without the support they need. You told the House that the backlog which built up towards the end of 2024 would be "almost entirely cleared" by the end of that month, and asked me to write to you directly if my constituent's case remained a problem.

It is now August. The backlog has not been cleared, and my constituent is still waiting.

I have just received a response from your department's Complaints Team on this exact case. It confirms that my constituent, who has a determination of limited capability for work, requested a reassessment in January 2024 after their health deteriorated. The referral was not even made until seven months later, after my constituent had to chase it themselves. It is now August 2026. My constituent has been waiting for more than two and a half years. Your department's own letter states plainly that there is "no set timescale" for when they will be seen, and that reassessments are only being carried out "when there is capacity," with new claims prioritised over people like my constituent.

This is not an isolated failure. It is the pattern your own department's data shows, and it is the pattern I described to you in March. I do not think it serves anyone, least of all disabled people waiting for a decision that affects their income and their ability to live with dignity, for the Minister to tell the House a backlog has been cleared when it plainly has not. I would ask you to correct the record and be straight with Parliament and the public about the true scale of the reassessment backlog, and to set out a clear, dated plan for clearing it, rather than a general reference to future capacity.

I would also welcome a meeting with you to discuss my constituent's case directly, and to see what can be done to get her the assessment that they have waited over two years for. I recognise that resolving one case will not fix a systemic problem, but my constituent should not have to wait for the system to be fixed before they are treated fairly.

Office of Manuela Perteghella MP - Stratford-on-Avon Constituency

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I look forward to hearing from you, and to arranging a time to meet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Manuela Perteghella'.

Dr Manuela Perteghella MP

Member of Parliament for Stratford-on-Avon