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Helen Whately MP

Your ref: HW/WA/180608

Our ref: POS(5)11497/133

15 JAN 2018

*Dear Helen,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 October 2017 to my predecessor about the pilot of mandatory recording of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) assessments. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The outcome of the pilot that was conducted was addressed in the Department's response to the Second Independent Review of the Personal Independence Payment assessment published on 18 December 2017 and is available on GOV.UK:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-independence-payment-pip-assessment-second-independent-review-government-response>.

In summary, the trial found that there was a limited impact through recording assessments: nevertheless, we committed to undertaking a further feasibility study, with the aim of better understanding the costs and benefits of recording assessments.

You may also know that I attended a session of the Work and Pensions Select Committee last month to give evidence on both PIP and Employment and Support Allowance assessments. During the session I was able to explain what I personally see as the positive benefits and opportunities that the recording of PIP assessments can offer to claimants and those carrying out the assessment. In addition, I promised to give the Committee an update on the further feasibility study in three months' time.

Finally, I want to assure you that there is already a good level of transparency in the PIP system and claimants who wish to record their assessments can continue do so within existing guidelines. These guidelines are published on the websites of both providers, Capita and Independent Assessment Services.

I hope you find this useful. Please do not hesitate in contacting me if you feel that I can be of further assistance.

*Yours sincerely,*



**Sarah Newton MP**

Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work