Dear Stephen

I hope you don't mind me emailing you and the Committee.

We wanted to bring to your attention the fact that bereavement support payment is not uprated in line with all the other benefits and tax credits - see <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benefit-and-pension-rates-2023-to-2024</u>. And, in fact, it was not uprated last year and still remains the same rate as when it was introduced in 2017.

We understand that the reason for this is that the benefit was introduced under the Pensions Act 2014 which does not require annual uprating. However, it seems terrible that people who have lost their partner should be penalised in this way, particularly during this cost of living crisis.

Would this be something that either you could ask a parliamentary question on, or that the Committee could raise with the Department.

Thank you for your time.

Best wishes

Daphne

Daphne Hall Vice-chair, National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers