

Debbie Abrahams MP
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

3 December 2024

Dear Ms Abrahams,

Firstly, congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Work and Pensions Committee. I previously responded to a letter from your predecessor, Sir Stephen Timms MP, on Defined Benefit (DB) pension scheme funding at the beginning of this year. I wanted to write to update you on progress made on these statistics, prompted, in part, by the Committee's interest in them.

The Work and Pensions Committee previously recommended that the Office for National Statistics (ONS), The Pensions Regulator (TPR) and the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) should reach an understanding of the funding position of DB schemes and publish the results. We note that the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions wrote to you with an update¹ that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is working to provide a full response to the report on this topic in the new year.

The ONS, TPR and PPF have worked alongside each other for many years, with increasing closeness since autumn 2022, to understand the differences between our respective datasets on DB pension schemes. Tomorrow, the ONS will publish a joint statement with TPR and the PPF to acknowledge and summarise the different approaches taken to both data collection and how the data are used by the three organisations, making this as clear as possible to our users and stakeholders². We will continue working together on an ongoing basis and expect our datasets will show greater alignment in future based on our collaboration and proposed changes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if any questions.

I am copying this letter to Sir Stephen in his role as Minister for Social Security and Disability at the Department for Work and Pensions.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Richmond
Deputy Director, Financial Sector Accounts and Corporations

¹ committees.parliament.uk/publications/45657/documents/226000/default/

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/investmentpensionsandtrusts/methodologies/officefornationalstatisticsonthe pensionsregulatorptrandpensionprotectionfundppfissuejointstatementondefinedbenefitpensionschemedata>