



From the Minister of State
for Work and Pensions

DWP Department for
Work and Pensions

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Hugh Henry MSP
Convener
Welfare Reform Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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12 January 2016

Dear Hugh

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2016. I regret that my Parliamentary commitments have so far meant that I have been unable to come to meet the Committee again. It is also very unlikely, for the same reasons, that I would be able to make it to Edinburgh before the Scottish Parliament is dissolved.

Nonetheless, I am keen to continue our discussion and I would like to invite you and members of the Welfare Reform Committee to meet in London.

The meeting itself would provide a good opportunity to discuss the particular welfare powers, contained in the Scotland Bill, that will be transferring to the Scottish Parliament. It would also be helpful to hear how you and your colleagues feel that the Scottish Government could best use these significant new powers so that we could explore, at a future meeting, how proposals could best be implemented, drawing on the expertise of DWP officials.

If you are content to proceed on this basis, our offices can explore suitable dates for your visit. In the meantime, my Department will continue to work closely with officials in Scottish Government to support the further devolution of welfare powers.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Minister for Employment