

22 April 2014

Denise Whitehead  
Social Security Advisory Committee  
5th Floor, Caxton House  
6-12 Tothill Street  
London SW1H 9NA

**DRAFT REGULATIONS: THE SOCIAL SECURITY (WAITING DAYS)  
AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2014**

Dear Denise,

The purpose of this letter is a formal request, in accordance with section 172 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992, for the Committee to consider proposals to amend the income-related benefits regulations and other Social Security regulations.

The amendments proposed in this package reflect a change of policy: in line with the budget announcement of 19 March 2014, they will increase the number of “waiting days”<sup>1</sup> served at the start of a new claim to Jobseeker’s Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance from the current level (3) to 7.

For the benefit of the Committee, I am attaching:

- a full explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposals, at section 3 of the accompanying **Explanatory Memorandum**; and
- an assessment of the impacts of these proposals, at section 4 of the Memorandum, with the Equality Assessment at **Annex 3**.

I also attach, separately, a copy of the draft SI for the Social Security (Waiting Days) Amendment Regulations 2014 at **Annex 2** (which remain subject to legal checks, and in respect of which further minor drafting amendments may therefore be required).

I hope these documents fully explain the proposals, and that they will aid the Committee members in their consideration of these changes. However, if you or any member of the Committee has any queries or requires further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

None of the proposals impact on legislation in respect of Housing Benefit, so no consultation with the Local Authority Associations has been required.

The Committee is invited to consider whether these Regulations may be made without further formal references.

Neil Walker  
Working Age Benefits

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<sup>1</sup> “Waiting days” are the days at the start of a period of unemployment or period of limited capability for work in respect of which claims for JSA and ESA, respectively, are being decided, but in respect of which no entitlement to benefit arises. Entitlement to benefit first starts from the day after the last waiting day.